

THE ASYLUM

Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Volume V, No. 1

Spring, 1987

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From the President

Welcome to Volume Five of *The Asylum*. It's right on time, packed with useful information. Last year's Bibliomania meeting at A. N. A. was most successful. Several regional meetings were held in 1986 and more are planned this year.

In short, the Numismatic Bibliomania Society is quite alive and is prospering. Except for one thing Members. We need more of them. At one time, shortly after the society was formed, we had nearly 300 paid members. At present, we have barely half that number. This issue is thirty-two pages in length and at least one more double-length issue is planned for 1987. Trouble is, we're not collecting enough funds from dues and advertisements to support the success of the journal.

Now, we can raise next year's dues (and we may have to) and I suspect most of you will suffer the increased burden. But, if membership can be doubled, not only will a dues increase not be necessary, all of next year's *Asylums* can be thirty-two pages in length. And we'll have twice as many happy NBS members. Enclosed with this issue is an extra membership application. Enroll the cat if you have to, but please help.

Election time approaches. Ballots will be sent out with the next issue of *The Asylum*. Please send nominations to the secretary, Linda Kolbe. Participate in the future of NBS.

There are some people who read too much: the bibliobibuli. I know some who are constantly drunk on books, as other men are drunk on whiskey or religion. They wander through this most diverting and stimulating of worlds in a haze, seeing nothing and hearing nothing.

H. L. Mencken

From the Editor

This is truly an exciting time to be editing *The Asylum*. Every few days another good manuscript or thought-provoking letter lands in our mailbox. If the interest of talented writers is an accurate barometer, our membership is doing just fine. Allow me, however, to echo the pleas contained in President Kolbe's message. George is right. We need more members, and your editor has a good reason for saying so. It seems to us that the main benefit of N. B. S. membership is *The Asylum*. We know that without the support of our loyal advertisers, it would be impossible to publish *The Asylum*. Ah, but there's the rub. The combination of our low membership and low dues makes it financially difficult to publish a magazine any longer than 16 pages per issue. Now take out the Winter, 1986 issue. Notice that the covers occupy two of the sixteen pages, while our advertisers (God bless 'em) take up nearly seven more. This leaves less than seven pages for articles, letters, features — the lifeblood of any journal.

Now, gentle readers, that ain't enough. But what's an editor to do? We have piles of great stuff to publish, but no place to publish it. If we cut back on advertising, we go broke. If we publish fat journals, we will soon be belly-up. Actually, there are a couple of ways out of this dilemma. The best, as George says, is to do some proselytizing and double our membership. The increased dues would allow us to publish a 32-page journal, like the one you are reading now, everytime.

Obviously, we can achieve the same thing by doubling our dues. And truth be told, I think most of us would be willing to pay \$15 in order to get a substantial journal

four times a year. Naturally, however, growth would be preferable to higher "taxes".

In any case, it is frustrating to edit, and frustrating to read a magazine less than half of which is copy. This issue is an example of the "quality in quantity" that we can have four times every year if we are willing to either recruit or double the ante. Let us know how you feel on this subject.



A warm welcome to Q. David Bowers, who recently joined N. B. S. and, prolific scholar that he is, almost immediately sent in "Revisiting the Early 1950's," a fascinating look backward at numismatics when Dave was a novice dealer. This article should confirm Dave's status as a graybeard of the hobby, even if he did shave it off about 18 months ago!



Would you like to own a piece of numismatic literature that is guaranteed to be unique? Would you like to assist the N. B. S.? Well here is your chance to do both at once. Your editor is conducting a one-lot mail bid sale, consisting of the paste-up pages of *The Asylum*, Vol. IV, Nos. 1 & 2. There are 24 photocopied pages, just as they returned from the typesetter, with your editor's marginal corrections in red. We certify that this is the only such copy in existence. We will accept mail bids on this item until 5 pm on Saturday, May 16; the winning bid will be donated to the N. B. S. If this catches on, we will auction other paste-ups in subsequent issues.



It's that time again — this is the official "call for nominations". We need to elect our officers and Board once again, so please submit your nominations to N. B. S. Secretary Linda Kolbe.



Another warm welcome, to Steve Helfer, who will be doing "The Bookend", our first regular column. Steve will launch his column by doing a series on the basics of book collecting, this time focusing on the definitions of "editions" and "printings".



Deadlines for submissions:

Summer issue: May 1

Autumn issue: August 1

Winter issue: November 1

Preview of Coming Attractions

"An Introduction to the Fascinating World of Numismatic Literature"
by George Frederick Kolbe.

"Research: Necessity, Curiosity and a Roll of the Dice" by Carling Gresham.

"Ramblings of an Acute Bibliomaniac" by Jeff Rock.

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Some of the following letters were meant to be published in the last issue, but had to be omitted for lack of space.

To the editor:

Another great issue of *The Asylum* [Autumn, 1986]. I really will try to get off my butt and contribute something.

One question: my pages are numbered 1-4, 7-22, 5-6, 23-28. Do I have the rare and desirable error variety, or did they all come out that way?

Denis Loring

New York, New York

Editor's note: Not ours, Denis. Nor has anyone else mentioned it. It looks as if you were the only lucky (?) one.

To the editor:

I think the Autumn issue of *The Asylum* was put on a Lake Michigan mail boat as it just arrived here last week. [early November, 1986]. [I loved] Remy Bourne's talk! I'd like more information if possible or some of the publications, if available.

I'm going to order back issues!

Brian Beidenback

Charlotte, North Carolina

To the editor:

In the Autumn issue of *The Asylum* I read with interest the letter by Mr. Jules J. Bloch II about buying (or not buying) books at auction. It struck me because I buy almost all of my books at auction. Mr. Bloch then touched on some good points against buying at auction, especially the buyer's fees, and the handling charges. As for unreasonable bids, I have found that most dealers will not throw out a bid unless it is really ridiculous. I did, however, recently lose a lot on which I had bid \$11.50 because the dealer entered my bid as \$1.50, which he considered unreasonable. In writing to this dealer, he replied that he considers a bid under \$3 unreasonable.

There may very well be book dealers who will give you bargains in numismatic books, but unless you are very lucky I don't think you will find a very large selection of numismatic books with most book dealers. Then you have travel expenses and your time getting to and from their shops (although some may consider the time well spent, for the fun of the hunt), I would rather spend my time reading and researching the books that I bought at auction. With regard to Mr. Bloch's point about paying inflated prices at auction, I don't know how you could do this unless you attended a public sale and got carried away with auction room mania. I do almost all of my bidding by mail.

Bidding at auction is fun because I feel that I am matching my judgment of values against the other bidders. Unless there is an item that I want very badly and I consider very rare, I usually bid rather low, for I have found that while I might not get it this time, or next time, eventually I will get it.

To touch on a completely different subject, some years ago *Coin World* featured an annual "Trends" [prices] section on numismatic literature, directed, I believe, by Frank and Laurese Katzen. The literature "Trends" has not been published for some years now, and I think it would be nice if such a feature could be

published in *The Asylum*. If a committee were formed to do this, I would be willing to serve on it.

Dave Hirt
Frederick, Maryland

To the editor:

I read with interest the letters from Jules Bloch and Leo Guibault, which are vastly dissimilar in scope and depth of issues raised.

Mr. Bloch's dissatisfaction with auction houses, I hope, represents a minority opinion. It would appear that he wants a dealer to do all the work, pay all the expenses, and still sell at the absolute lowest price. I do not think his letter warrants further comment.

Mr. Guibault's letter gets far below the surface (beach?) and raises very specific, but difficult questions. The setting of standards as suggested in Question 1 and the business of PRLs in Question 3 I feel run into serious economic roadblocks.

I note that the recent Stacks auction realized \$1.9 Million. This was no special sale and certainly one of probably 40 or so major auctions to be held during 1986. By contrast, the most successful literature sale in history (Kolbe's Lee Sale, June, 1981) realized \$272,000 or about 1/4th of that amount. Yet I would venture to say that the cost of producing this spectacular catalogue was more than 1/4 of what Stacks spent on theirs.

Most literature sales fall far below the level of the Lee sale. In many, the average per lot price of literature and auction catalogues combined is in the neighborhood of \$15.00. Often there is no big ticket item or groups of items to subsidize the catalogue. Should 3 or 4 lines be allowed for each lot for a full description, an entire page might represent only \$100 of potential sales. Quite frankly, I admit I have been guilty of truncating a description on a lesser item when the end of the line approached. When you consider that most post 1930 auction catalogues, excepting of course landmark sales and special hardbound editions, sell in the \$5.00 range, you can see how critical the space problem is. You just can't overdescribe a \$5.00 item and still sell it for \$5.00.

Thus I would prefer to allocate what space I feel an item justifies by describing the physical characteristics unique to the copy being offered. For the typical \$5.00 item, data such as specialty field (if any) covered, number of pages, plates, lots, size, etc. belong in a standard reference. John Adams' *Numismatic Literature, Vol I 19th Century Catalogues*, and his soon to be published Volume 2 on the 20th Century, is/will be (I am sure) pure manna, and I have no sympathy for any collector who does not plan to purchase them. Martin Gengerke's *American Numismatic Auctions* provides a roster of some 10,000 known sales with basic data included for each. I would like to assume that any serious collector has purchased this book also.

Armed with these references, all back issues of *The Asylum*, and perhaps a set of Kolbe, Wilson, Katzen catalogues, most of which are readily available, a collector is well positioned to protect himself against the "over-rated" and "over described" book. I do not believe that the NBS, whose purpose as stated in the first number of *The Asylum* is to "enlighten, inform, and entertain, . . . and be an open forum for new information and research," wants to pull an ANACS and get into the grayer areas such as the setting of standards, definition of grading, etc. Heaven forbid we should create MS-62 catalogues in slabs.

The problem with PRLs is vexing to say the least, especially as it relates to catalogues issued during the past 25 years. Because many firms have been fairly liberal when sending out freebie catalogues in the hopes of generating additional bids, but have generally sent out price lists only to bidders and subscribers, or sold them for an additional fee, I find perhaps 2 catalogues without prices for each one with.

Because of this scarcity, I doubt a price list service could be instituted. Should I be fortunate enough to acquire any quantity of PRLs, I dare say I would hold them for matching up with corresponding catalogues rather than sell them separately. Photocopying is a solution for small lists, but large fanfolded ones are a nuisance to copy, while removing staples for photoing risks damaging the original. And at .10/page, a dealer would have to charge at least \$2.00 just to break even.

And then we run into the following scenario. If a common Stacks catalogue sells for \$3.50 with prices, and a copied PRL is \$2.00, is the catalogue without prices worth only \$1.50? Or do we establish the price with PRL at \$5.00 (at which level it probably will not sell) and offer it without prices for \$3.00? Everyone wants a PRL, but not when it costs as much as the catalogue itself.

These comments are obviously geared toward the commoner, less expensive modern material which is offered frequently and sells at the lower end of the spectrum. Copied PRLs like reproduction plates will of course lower the value of classic material. The price is, and should be, determined by the bidders who must decide for themselves how much such faults are worth. No standards nor guidebook is going to tell a true bibliomaniac how deep to dig into his pocket for an item he wants, regardless of its limitations.

He gets his marching orders from a higher authority.

Charles Davis
Morristown, New Jersey

To the editor:

Concerning *The Asylum*, while that title might have been a novelty at one time, I suspect that for a serious publication another title would be more satisfactory. I realize, of course, that *Penny Whimsy*, certainly an informal title, decorates the cover of one of the finest numismatic books ever written. But, still, while *Penny Whimsy* might be whimsical or even fun, the word "Asylum" has unfavorable connotations. Why not something simple, such as "The Numismatic Book Collector," "The Numismatic Bibliophile," or something like this? In that way the title of the publication would pertain to the subject being discussed. Just an idea . . .

Q. David Bowers
Wolfeboro, New Hampshire

Editor's note: The comments above were combined from two letters received from Dave, dated December 10 and December 30, 1986. Your editor's reaction can be found in "The Last Word."

Association News

Ron Horstman reports that a regional meeting of the N. B. S. was held in St. Louis on November 14, 1986 at the first annual National and World Paper Money Show. Neil Shafer spoke on "Preparing Catalogues" and an open discussion followed his talk. A partial list of those attending included:

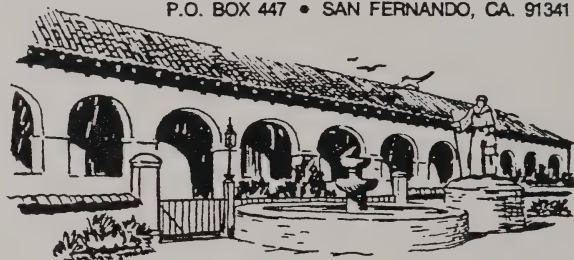
Neil Shafer	Ron Horstman	Mike Levin
Steve Whitfield	Don Bunjevac	Rusty Geiger
Nelson Page Aspen	Tim Wilson	George Nicholson

President George reports that a regional meeting of the N. B. S. was held on December 14, 1986 in New York City at the New York International Numismatic Convention. Member Harrington Manville of Washington, D. C. gave a talk based on his experiences in preparing *British Numismatic Auction Catalogues* (reviewed in *The Asylum* Autumn, 1986; pp 24-25). Attending was:

Harrington E. Manville	George Frederick Kolbe	Martin Gengerke
Denis Loring	Vincent Alones	Bob Levin
Michelle Levin	Barbara Druck	Gordon Frost
Barry Tayman	Alfred McDonald	Scott Miller
Peter Gaspar	Douglas Saville	Eric Wronker

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“Professional”: Smile When You Call Me That! A Doodle Inspired by Carling Gresham

Randolph Zander
Alexandria, Virginia

I enjoyed Carling Gresham's raucous *cri de coeur* in the last *Asylum*. How right he is: “professional numismatist” can nowadays sound almost libelous — smile when you call me that, pardner. In spite of the trivialization, though, the term still should and does mean something honorable.

What is a professional numismatist, and how did he get there? Not through a prescribed course of study leading to a graduate degree; the rare exception only proves the rule. It depends partly on what kind of numismatics you're talking about. A learned worker in a great museum will of course have a solid academic background. In practicing his form of numismatics he will adhere to rigorous scholarship. He is a proper professional.

But Carling and I are talking about coin dealers. Take the spectrum — all the way from the scavenger with his suitcase to the seasoned expert who discharges his civic numismatic responsibilities and who is often a keener scholar than the museum curator. Somewhere along the scale you draw the line — not laser-sharp but a sort of broad penumbra. You draw the line, in fact, case by case. At least once every generation do-gooders constitute a committee to identify a set of criteria defining professionalism, but no workable litmus test has ever come out.

Commercial numismatics is not like contemporary medicine, the law, or even undertaking. Once upon a time, the village carpenter knocked together the coffin; that and the parson's grave-side obsequies were the sum-total of professionalism involved (the Pharaoh's morticians, on the other hand, were real pros). And all of our early Supreme Court Justices started out by reading the law in an attorney's office. Happily, by and large the road to professional numismatics still starts the same humble way. No hierarchical imperative holds down the scavenger with his suitcase. More frequently than not he falls by the wayside, but encouragingly often he still may work his honorable way to the top.

An outfit like the International Association of Professional Numismatists (IAPN) has what looks like a relaxed set of minimum standards, but admission is rather like that to a good club, and the membership in consequence reflects a satisfactory level of professional competence. For example, a third of its busy members found time to contribute serious studies to the *Festschrift* which commemorated its 35th anniversary last year. And the members do not feel the need to apologize for the word “professional”: it is, by God, a professional organization.

It is sure enough grotesque when Carling's novice dealer awards himself instant professional status. So grotesque, indeed, that, as Carling says, generally the only fellow he fools is himself.

There is perhaps a ray of hope. Perfectly good words like “gay” got coopted and misused. Given time, the vogue can pass and the word gradually resumes its pristine Johnsonian or Shakespearian sense. Just now, “professionalism” in certain numismatic circles appears to be giving way to “industrialism”. Ask any prominent Morgan manipulator how he foresees 1987. “The industry was never healthier, I look

for great things this year for MS-68 &c.” Nothing as prissy and old-hat as “the profession.”

“The industry” is more inclusive, more activist, more dynamic. It was Beirut industrialists who used to make for us those handsome double eagles that still keep ANACS busy. And the whizzer is motivated by the industrial ethic — his operation seeks to create value-added.

Society of Numismatic Industrialists, anybody?

SAGA OF UTAH'S LARGEST MAN-HUNT

Harry F. Campbell
South Salt Lake City, Utah

Editor's Note: The following is reprinted from the author's 1983 book, Campbell's Tokens of Utah, first edition. While not dealing with numismatic literature, per se, it sheds light on a fascinating, if somewhat grisly bit of history regarding the Utah mines that fed the mint's hunger for copper. We think you will enjoy it.

To the west of the Salt Lake valley lies a range of mountains known as the Oquirrh range. Just a year after the Mormon pioneers entered the valley, Thomas and Sanford Bingham drove a herd of cattle into the mouth of a canyon in the range and set up a camp in August, 1848. It was not until 1863 that this canyon was prospected for minerals by soldiers of the 3rd California Infantry, stationed at Camp Douglas just east of Salt Lake City.

Because of its immense wealth in timber, gold, silver, lead, and copper ore, many small towns were built. To the many mines that sprang up came foreigners from all countries, and it took little provocation to cause serious trouble between them. The unwritten law of the west settled serious trouble with a knife or a gun. In the later years, the Utah Copper Division of the Kennecott Copper Corporation took over much of the Canyon and its mines, producing 20 per cent of the nation's new copper and 6.5 per cent of the free world's supply. Over the years, more than two billion tons of material were taken from its open pit mine, making it the world's largest man-made excavation. As it expanded, it swallowed up the canyon and the small towns. The town of Bingham never attained old age as it was only incorporated in 1904 and officially ceased to exist on November 22, 1971. There are no saloons, no stores, no rooming houses, only token coins left to remind us of its residents, together with tales of the West. Perhaps the following story should read, 'Once Upon a Time There Was a Bingham Canyon, Utah'.

On November 21st, 1913, a Mexican miner by the name of Rafael Lopez shot and killed another miner by the name of Juan Valdez, with whom he was acquainted. The killing took place in the area of 'Highland Boy', a small town just above Bingham. The cause of the killing is believed to have been a feud involving a girl and the death of Lopez's brother some time before.

Law officers arriving from Bingham found that Lopez had fled south over the Utah Copper Mine's hill, and his tracks in the snow indicated that he was going in the

direction of Utah Lake. Learning that he had taken his rifle and cartridges, officers Julius Sorenson, William J. (Bill) Grant (Bingham Police Chief), Otto Whitbeck, and Nephi Jensen set out in pursuit and caught up with him in the area of the Jones ranch near Utah Lake.

Being a deadly shot, Lopez gunned three of the posse to death with Sorenson escaping to raise the alarm. Sheriff Smith of Salt Lake County set out in pursuit along with many sightseers who came by automobile, by rail, on horse, and on foot. A search revealed no fugitive, and it was thought by many that some lacked the will to search diligently due to fear of Lopez's shooting ability. With many frayed nerves, the hunt was called off. The next morning a small posse came under fire from a mountain position near the lake, and taunts from Lopez towards Officer Sorenson, whom he disliked for roughing him up on a previous occasion in Bingham, caused Sorenson and the posse to withdraw for more men. It was not until the following morning that another posse arrived only to find Lopez gone.

For nine days nothing was known as to his whereabouts, until an Italian miner by the name of Charles Ovi claimed that Lopez had come to his cabin near the mouth of the 'Minnie Mine' in Bingham Canyon. With his wife and four children present, he claimed that Lopez has taken supplies and forced him to trade his rifle for Lopez's, which was of a different calibre and was low on shells. He further stated that Lopez had taken blankets and quilts and had gone into the #2 mine.

The ten miles of underground workings were a match for the peace officers, but Lopez knew them well. It was decided to smoke him out, so hay and damp wood were piled at each entrance to the mine. On November 29, 1913, whilst hauling hay up the 'Andy' incline to block one of these entrances, an Austrian miner by the name of Vasa Manderich was shot through the heart and died instantly. A man with him named J. Douglas Hulsey was shot through the lung and foot and fell down the incline. Rolling into a post, he lay moaning for some time until rescued by Doc Ray and an unidentified helper. Law officers at the foot of the incline came under taunts from above and came under fire, but no one was hit further in the darkness. The decision to smoke him out threw some two hundred miners out of work for the next ten days, with a loss of thousands of dollars in production, not counting the cost to local authorities.

Betting that the oxygen was now used up and that Lopez must be dead, officials found only his blankets and quilts. Lopez was no where to be found! Rumors flew thick and fast as to where he might be, but to this day, no one knows what really happened to Rafael Lopez.

The Bookend

Steven Helfer
Chicago, Illinois

This will be the first of a regular series of articles on the basics of book collecting.

When you select a coin book to add to your collection, you will find many factors that will affect which copy you buy. Among these factors are grade, autographs, a presentation copy, a reprint, a deluxe edition, a first edition, or an error copy. I will talk about the variables that can occur during the time books are printed and

assembled. These traits can make a huge price difference for what is basically the same text.

The one trait that usually enhances a book's value is that of being a first edition. The term first edition involves the way books are printed. Before 1800, printers had to assemble the type in page forms to print the book. The first time the printer ran off a number of books (a press run); it was its first edition. After the books were printed the form pages were emptied and the type put back in the drawers. This was done because metal type was expensive and the typesetter's labor was cheap. With regard to illustrations, depending on the type of plates used, the later illustrations might show some wear. Then, if the book proved popular and sold out, the whole job of setting the type for it had to be done over. Each time the book was printed again, it constituted another edition. The differences between one edition and another could be quite distinct. Sometimes the year, edition, and various other information were printed in the front or back.

If at the time of printing an error (i.e. spelling) was found, the printer would stop the press run, fix the error(s) and then start printing again. The edition number is the same, but it is now a second printing. Each time another change was made, it became another printing. Errors other than typographical and grammatical can also exist. For example, during the press run the bolt of material for the cover may run out, and the new bolt will be a slightly different shade. When they were printing the 1984 Red Book, some had the text bound in upside down in the cover before the error was discovered.

The way to use these differences, to find out more about a book's printing history, is through the use of bibliographies. By discovering a book at a used book store or house sale and then using such small differences as a missing comma, you can add time and knowledge to turn a \$6 book into a \$50 book. Bibliographies give the printing history of a book by either Author or Subject. A basic coin bibliography is *Select Numismatic Bibliography* by Elvira Clain-Stefanelli. Although it contains only 5000 entries, it lists other bibliographies (i.e. bibliography of Moslem numismatics). Besides editions, bibliographies have many uses, such as determining whether your book is complete. Sometimes people separated the illustrations from books, so the number of illustrations it was printed with might not match the number in your copy. Each book entry has its own number next to it, for exact reference. Sometimes a bookseller's "for sale" list cites a bibliographical reference next to only a very brief description. To find out if your library has any useful bibliographies, look up a subject or author in the card catalogue and there is sometimes a section under each subject or heading in which bibliographies are listed with other reference material.

The added cost of a first edition I found to be unnecessary in trying to build a basic coin reference library. Even some of the later reprints can cost \$50. In my specialty area though, I try to collect every edition of every book. Although the contents are alike, the market place assigns more value on certain printed traits of a book.

Please feel free to write with any comments, suggestions, or stories. I will try to answer any letters sent with a S. S. A. E. If I get enough questions that would be of general interest, I will try to answer them in my column.

STEVEN HELFER

P. O. Box 59162

Chicago, Illinois 60659

Research Help Requested

The undersigned is researching the number of extant copies of several very rare books and auction catalogues on early large cents. If you own any of these, or know of other copies, please write to me, giving provenance if at all possible. All information will be held in total confidence, of course. The results will be published in a future issue of *The Asylum*. These are the references:

1. Dr. Edward Maris, *Varieties of the Copper Issues of the United States Mint in the Year 1794* (1869 edition).
2. The same, 1870 edition.
3. F. D. Andrews, *An Arrangement of United States Copper Cents 1816-1857* (1881 edition).
4. S. H. Chapman, *The United States Cents of the Year 1794* (1923 edition).
5. G. H. Clapp, *The United States Cents of the Years 1798-1799* (Leather-bound presentation edition, numbered 1 through 10. Please specify your number. I have no. 7).
6. U. S. Coin Company, *Catalogue of the Foster Lardner Collection*, November, 1914 (with four original plates).
7. U. S. Coin Company, *Catalogue of the Granberg-Woodin Collection (Collection of a Prominent American)*, May, 1915, with seven original plates.

A project like this can succeed only with your help. Thanks in advance for your participation. Send your data to:

Denis W. Loring
P. O. Box 363
New York, NY 10101

Research Information Wanted

The undersigned, with Q. David Bowers, is currently engaged in research leading to the publication of a reference book covering the numismatic collecting of Albert Fairchild Holden, of Cleveland (Ohio), who was active in numismatics from the 1890s until 1912, and his daughter, Emery May Holden Norweb, whose collecting activities began early in the present century and continued until her death in 1983.

Wanted for Albert Fairchild Holden are invoices, citations in numismatic or other periodicals concerning his activities, or any mention of him in any numismatic context whatever, especially correspondence with dealers at the time, etc. For Mrs. Norweb, I desire early correspondence (pre-1955) as well as anecdotes, personal recollections, and other information from those who knew her.

Credit will be given in the book for any information furnished.

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REVISITING THE EARLY 1950s

Q. David Bowers
Wolfeboro, New Hampshire

I began my numismatic interest in 1952 or early 1953. I walked almost before I learned to crawl, so to speak, and within a few months of my entry I was doing business with leading dealers around the country and had the beginnings of a decent numismatic library. By 1955 I ventured to sign up for a bourse table at the American Numismatic Association's annual convention, held that summer at the Hotel Fontenelle, in Omaha. At the ripe old age of 16 years, I achieved a minor footnote in coin dealer history by being the youngest person ever to have a bourse table at one of these events. These were the days, by the way, when the ANA had not gone into "big business." The rules for having a bourse table were simply that one must be a member in good standing and be perceived as having good character. Today, a complicated "point system" is in effect, involving advertising in *The Numismatist*, donating to the ANA, and so on.

The gathering that summer in Omaha seemed to be modestly attended, but actually it was a record for the ANA, for it was announced that the five hundred mark had been crossed for the first time in history. As I remember it, the bourse spread over a large ballroom, with coin exhibits at the center. Among the coins on display there was a set of \$4 gold Stellas, the property of one O. L. Harvey — the first time I had ever seen these legendary rarities.

It probably was at this convention that I met B. Max Mehl for the first time, or perhaps it was at next year's ANA show in Chicago. With the pressure of Max's extensive mail order business, it's a wonder that he remembered me when Abe Kosoff made the introduction, but he did. In fact, he told me that he liked my advertising and enjoyed the correspondence I had with him earlier. In addition to his famous *Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia*, he issued a small printed listing of coins for sale. By the end of his career, these lists came out infrequently. I remember seeing a 1909-S Indian cent offered in Uncirculated grade for about \$10, and placing an order. At the time the piece was worth closer to \$30. I told Max upon our meeting that I was pleased with my 1909-S Indian cent and considered it to be quite a bargain, whereupon he said something to the effect that he knew he was selling it for a third of its true value, but he was getting along in years, I seemed to be an enthusiastic and appreciative buyer and, in any event, it hadn't cost him much when he bought it years earlier!

At the same time he took from his pocket a highly polished early \$10 piece, I believe the date was 1799, and handed it to me, asking: "How do you like this Proof?"

Not wishing to offend him, I mumbled something about the possibility of its being polished, rather than being a Proof, whereupon he said, "I am just testing your knowledge."

By the time I met him, the well-known Fort Worth dealer was greatly reduced in his activity, and his attendance at the convention was not for the purpose of buying and selling but, rather, was simply to shake hands and to relive memories from earlier times. Max was quite short in stature, not much if at all over five feet. I remember that his handshake was very soft and warm, almost like shaking hands with a teddy bear! I saw Max once or twice after my first meeting, and he was always warm and cheery.

He had a definite way with people, and undoubtedly this was contributory to his great success.

I recall that Oscar Schilke, a prominent numismatist in the New York-Connecticut area during the period from about 1930 to 1960, told me of a dispute he had with Mehl. As most of my present readers know, B. Max Mehl was a promoter first and numismatist a distant second. I am not insulting his memory, for he would have been the first to state that such things as the study of large cents and colonial coins by die varieties were simply not his cup of tea. Besides, with his nationwide promotion of coin collecting, Max probably did as much for collecting as did anyone possessing a copy of some technical treatise and whose main claim to fame was discovering a new large cent variety of the year 1856. Anyway, it seems that Oscar Schilke had purchased a coin in one of Max's mail bid sales. (Max called them auctions, but each and every one was simply a mail bid sale — without any public attendance whatsoever.) When it arrived, it was grossly overgraded. The piece was described as "Uncirculated," but it was a country mile from that classification. As a convention was coming up, Oscar did not return the coin to Mehl when he received it but, rather, wrote to him to say that he would return the coin a few weeks later at the show, at which time he would like to have an explanation as to why it was called Uncirculated. Apparently, the coin was a fairly expensive one.

The show date came, and Oscar was on the bourse floor, looking for Max Mehl. Mehl saw him first, and ran over. I remember Oscar Schilke told me what happened at that point:

"He shook my hand, patted me on the back, and insisted that he take me out to dinner. I accepted, and we had a great time. Somehow, I couldn't bring myself to spoil the hospitality by even mentioning the auction lot I didn't like — so it went into my collection, where it has remained ever since."

Returning to my discussion of the American Numismatic Association Convention in Omaha in 1955, Aubrey and Adeline Bebee had the auction there. They turned out an attractive yellow-covered catalogue listing many coins, including a Proof 1867 with-rays nickel, which I purchased for the sum of \$610, an unheard-of price for this rarity, and a figure which caused much excitement when it was announced. Today, it's hard to conceive that anyone would find a \$610 coin transaction to be noteworthy — gosh, even a common date double eagle is apt to sell for that price — but back then it was big news. Perhaps to put things in better contrast, I should note that Aubrey Bebee showed me a 1796 quarter dollar, Uncirculated with a prooflike surface, for which he had just paid \$200. In defense of this "ridiculous" price, he told me that he bought it only because he had a customer for it. Today, the same coin would be worth the best part of \$50,000!

No sooner had I paid my auction bill with the Bebees than O. L. Harvey, the owner of the \$4 Stella exhibit, came over and asked me what kind of profit I would take. We struck a bargain, and a few minutes later the 1867 with-rays was his. What happened to it after that point, I don't know — but I have always wondered.

James, Inc., a Kentucky firm run by the Karp brothers, was prominent in numismatics in 1955 and was one of the leading advertisers in *The Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*, the most important periodical of the day. At the time, *Numismatic News* was primarily composed of classified advertisements and

was more of a swapping and trading list, and *The Numismatist*, the journal of the ANA, seemed to be more "formal" and, in any event, it did not have much market information in it. The *Scrapbook* led the hobby, and just about anyone who was active subscribed to it. Lee F. Hewitt, whose collection I had the privilege of selling at auction a few years ago, owned the *Scrapbook*. No doubt the publication prospered because he was a first-rank numismatist himself and had the knowledge to sift editorial wheat from chaff. Besides, he was an astute businessman and a really fine fellow. He was quite careful that advertisements in his monthly magazine not be misleading and be placed only by people of good reputation. When I first sent in an advertisement, he insisted that my father sign a document of parental responsibility, for I was not of legal age.

Anyway, the Karp brothers were leading dealers in United States Proof Sets. At the time, interest in Proof Sets was increasing sharply, and the Mint had placed a restriction on the number that could be ordered by any single person - I think it was something like five or ten sets each. With this in mind, the Karp brothers brought to the show, and prominently exhibited a "thank you letter" from the Mint, written in 1951, expressing appreciation for their order for *thousands* of Proof Sets.

Double eagles were trading in the range of about \$36 each wholesale at the time, or just slightly over melt-down value. Not far from me, a Nevada gold trader conducted a transaction which to me seemed amazing - and involved hundreds of double eagles stacked in poker-chip fashion on top of an exhibit case. I had never seen so much gold in one place at one time! Typically, double eagles were traded as a commodity, with scarce interest paid to any but common dates. To be sure, if a piece bore a Carson City mintmark it was worth slightly more, and certain issues of the 1920s were valuable if they had mintmarks. I couldn't envision anyone having enough money to collect gold coins by the varieties. Before long, however, I was a bit wiser on the subject - and a fine gentleman, James Ross, a Pennsylvania collector, gave me his want list for double eagles by dates and mintmarks - and I, with some diligent searching, was able to supply some pieces he needed.

I believe it was at the 1955 show that I met Abe Kosoff for the first time. He was one of the "greats" in the hobby - as exemplified by having conducted a number of important auction sales and having been featured in print many times. By this time, I had a nice file of his Numismatic Gallery auction catalogues and the chatty *Numismatic Gallery Monthly*. "The World's Greatest Collection," sold by the Numismatic Gallery (Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg) before my time, in 1945 and 1946, stood as one of the greatest numismatic events ever - right up there with B. Max Mehl's 1941 sale of the Dunham Collection. Today, if one reads these old catalogues they seem to be rather shallow. Rare coins were described in simple one-line listings. But, that was the state of the art of the time. It was not until John Jay Ford, Jr. introduced detailed scholarship into numismatics in the very early 1950s that this changed. The 1952 American Numismatic Association catalogue, which was conducted by three firms jointly, but with John Jay Ford's New Netherlands Coin Company taking the lead, was the first major catalogue done

in the style that present-day readers are accustomed to seeing. Perhaps if it had not been for John Ford's pioneering ways, even today great rarities would be described in just a few sentences in auction catalogues. If this statement seems a bit far-fetched, all you have to do is look at catalogues issued by firms in other hobbies - rare stamps, for example - and you will see that the state of the cataloguing art in stamp collecting today, in 1987, is about what it was in coin collecting 40 years ago! Nor do today's detailed coin descriptions have any counterpart in the field of antiques or fine arts. Most of these catalogues are written with a "just the facts, ma'am" attitude - with little about the romance, history, and appeal of collecting. I feel that the entire numismatic hobby owes John J. Ford, Jr. a debt of gratitude for the trend he started.

Returning to Abe Kosoff, he was friendly to me at the very start, and until his death over a quarter century later, we had many transactions. I was honored to be selected to auction his estate in 1985.

Abe's partner, Abner Kreisberg, was a friend as well - a genial person who would go out of his way to make clients happy. One of my finest recollections of Abner involved a transaction we had around 1960, when he asked me if I wanted to purchase the Maj. Lenox R. Lohr collection of United States pattern coins, a holding of nearly 1,500 different items. The purchase price involved close to \$100,000, an amount of money which I could not afford. Although Abner Kreisberg could have sold it elsewhere for as much or more, and for instant payment, he let me buy it on time payments, in three installments, without interest! My firm did very well with this collection, and the handling of this property certainly advanced the success of Empire Coin Company, Inc. (owned by Jim Ruddy and myself).

In Boston, Maurice Gould and Frank Washburn conducted business upstairs in a small office on Boylston Street, off of Copley Square. They were "nice guys" also, and transactions with them were always of the highest order. Like many dealers of the time, they were willing to spend time talking about history and collecting — even though there might not be a prospect of an immediate sale. I realize that memory can be selective, and that I had my share of unfortunate incidents over the years, but I remember with great warmth the vast majority of dealers and collectors I encountered in the years prior to 1960. These were times in which the word investment was something pertaining to the stock market, not specifically to coins. To be sure, old-time collectors knew that their numismatic holdings were perhaps the best investment of all, but investment strictly was secondary to collecting enjoyment. Although there were no grading standards at all, grading was not a big problem. Sure, there were differences of opinion, but these were settled amicably. In fact, I cannot recall a single instance in which any collector ever threatened to sue a coin dealer. Such stuff did not become a part of numismatics until the "big business" era of the 1960s and onward.

I could go on with many recollections of dealers and collectors I knew back then, but space does not permit this at the moment. If readers want more, I will think of something further to say in a future issue.

BYWAYS OF BRITISH NUMISMATICS

Harrington E. Manville
Washington, D. C.

Editor's Note: At the first east coast meeting of the N.B.S., held on December 14, 1986, in conjunction with the 15th annual New York International Numismatic Convention, member Harrington E. Manville of Washington, D. C. gave a talk based on his experiences in preparing the monumental listing of British numismatic auction sale catalogues recently published in London by A. H. Baldwin & Sons and Spink & Son under the title British Numismatic Auction Catalogues 1710-1984 (reviewed in The Asylum, Vol IV, No. 3, pp. 24-25). Mr. Manville has provided this account of his talk, with one or two additions.

All numismatic research has its ups and downs, and work on the sales volume produced its share of *pain* (the physical demands of typing more than a million and a half characters and the psychological frustration of not being able to visit just one more library or to locate a copy of a sale referred to in a text); *pleasure* (hearing from researchers that the work has helped them or in placing a name to an important sale by an anonymous consignor); *problems* (where to draw the line on including a sale with, say, only a few numismatic books or when only an incomplete copy of a catalogue can be located — does the remnant include all numismatic lots?); *rewards* (helpful criticism that may be utilized for corrigenda and/or a second edition — showing that the book really has been read carefully — but not financial rewards, as no royalties were taken in order to keep the cost as low as possible); *spin-offs* (the discovery since publication of additional unrecorded numismatic catalogues and the development of material for articles or talks such as this one); and, finally, a look to *the future*: Volume II on British numismatic and archeological periodicals is well underway (for publication in perhaps five more years), with Volumes III (a bibliography) and IV (a dictionary) to follow eventually.

Some specific early sales of interest include that of the Earl of Oxford in 1742, the first important English sale, with different notations in copies annotated contemporaneously giving the distinctive flavor of 18th century numismatics. Dr. Richard Mead's 1755 sale had the Greek and Roman sections written in Latin and the other series in English, with a large number of coins in many lots (e.g. 20-40 Roman pieces with full legends and descriptions) giving rise to opportunities for substitutions at the viewings — an event duly noted in at least one copy. Then in 1767, a Dr. Giralaldi and a Mons. d'Ennerie came over from the Continent to sell an accumulation of coins. During the sale they complained that there was a conspiracy against them on the part of the London collectors to keep prices down and they apparently tried to bid up their own coins to such an extent that the sale was broken off in the middle of the third day when everyone else walked out.

The well-known 18th century collector, Thomas Barrett, sold a few coins in 1758 but the bulk of his collection was purchased *en bloc* by Thomas Knight, M. P., while the catalogue was still in the manuscript stage. Knight later left his collection to Oxford University and some of his former pieces were involved in an odd, and somewhat embarrassing, incident in the next century (see below). Dr. William Hunter, of Hunterian Museum fame, also bought entire collections and sold off at least one large selection of duplicates in 1771. Several other anonymous sales also are

attributed to him but, as one annotator pointed out, some coins offered, being 'uniques', could hardly be called duplicates.

The undated Marquis of Granby sale has been placed to as early as 1746 and as late as 1773. Matching the days of the week in various years, the dates of death of the Marquis and a co-consignor, the dates the auctioneer was active, and the format of his catalogues at different times enabled the earlier dates to be rejected and, with some degree of confidence, an assignment of the catalogue to the latest date.

An elaborate catalogue of the Rev. Richard Southgate collection was drawn up in 1795 but before it could be held, Samuel Tyssen purchased the lot for 1800 guineas — a staggering sum for the time. Again, the duplicates from the amalgamated collections were offered at auction before the great sale of Tyssen's final collection in 1802. That collection was so enormous and covered so many series that even now it sometimes is possible to trace unpedigreed coins to his catalogue and, in fact, I have been successful in placing to his sale one piece purchased completely without pedigree.

Members of the royal family frequently were collectors (or accumulators) and after the death of George III's queen, her goods and chattels (including circulating coins she had squirrelled away) were offered in an 1819 sale. A contemporary cartoon ridiculing this event shows the Prince Regent (the future George IV) as auctioneer on a rostrum with a crown on the side and his fat sisters behind him emploting the audience to buy trashy household articles. (*BNAC*, p. 55.) Not all auctions were as amusing, however, and at the 1833 sale of John Clerk, Lord Eldin, so many viewers crowded into the auction room that the floor collapsed, with two killed and many injured. An account of this event, by 'a sufferer', is bound into a number of copies of the catalogue.

In a similar manner, some copies of the ornate catalogue of the Strawberry Hill sale in 1842, with its florid descriptions of the collection formed by Horace Walpole (died in 1797), have a sarcastic parody of the 'prefatory remarks' bound in. The catalogue of the two-part Duke of Devonshire sale in 1844, on the other hand, were so poorly prepared that it has been catagorized as:

. . . worthless, upwards of 400 serious errors have been counted in it. Many valuable coins were lotted falsely which were probably genuine and sold in lots of 20 & 30 each for nothing — and as no proper opportunity was given to view them, in numerous cases the prices afford no criterion as to their value, it was rather a game of chance or a scramble than a sale.

(*BNAC*, p. 85, fn 12.)

Sotheby's Campana sale of 1846 also engendered controversy. Catalogued by J. L. E. Curt, a copy annotated by J. B. Bergne and now in the Royal Numismatic Society/British Numismatic Society combined libraries, is filled with corrections: *false, dubious, ill* (instead of well) *preserved, mere rubbish* — and contains these caustic comments on the flyleaf:

The descriptions of the Coins in this collection are in very many instances most grossly exaggerated. The Roman Gold, with few exceptions, was exceedingly poor. Out of the large number of Brass Medallions, there were not more than half a dozen that really deserved to be called *fine*. Many were false, and the greater part so bad as to be almost valueless.

The best part of the colection is that which is least puffed in the Catalogue, vizt. the Roman Brass and Silver, among which, especially the former, were some remarkably fine specimens. Very few, if any, of the Greek coins, belonged to Mr.

Campana's own collection. There were procured at Rome in order to give the Sale a more extended character, and to attract a wider class of purchasers.

Somehow this copy fell into Curt's hands and under this last remark is written boldly: "Mr. Bergne's own invention — a *lie!* Joseph Curt June 1873". And under *that* someone has added the even later comment (presumably referring to Curt): "foul-mouthed, with no Knowledge of Greek Coins."

Although we have seen that 'substitutions' had been made as early as the Mead sale in the previous century, it was brought to a fine art by Lt-Col. William Durrant, who kept careful records of his thefts while he cheerfully muddled pedigrees by substituting inferior specimens at many a 'name' sale before his own auction in 1847. Because Durrant was an officer and a gentleman, there appears to have been a conspiracy of silence not to brand his memory, although he was all but named by J. Y. Akerman in the 1847-1848 *Numismatic Chronicle* (NC, p. 49) and it was left to K. F. Sugden to strip away the final mask only in 1978 (*SCMB*, pp. 5-7; *SNC*, pp. 476-77).

In 1850, the Soho Mint held, in Birmingham, a little-known sale of minting supplies and machinery, including, most importantly, dies and puncheons. Either directly or later, many or all of the latter fell into the hands of W. J. Taylor, who is notorious for having produced a myriad of what are often rather kindly called 'restrikes' but are, of course, fabrications (e.g. the 'nude Britannia' halfpennies). Some work has been done on this subject but there remains room for research to try to match the Soho sale material with known (and perhaps unknown?) Taylor pieces.

An even more obscure sale was conducted by John Burton in Preston in 1851 of the Joseph Kenyon collection, but its importance is as great or even greater because it contained coins held out from the Cuerdale Hoard of 1840 — material that, until a somewhat mangled sale catalogue turned up (possibly the only one extant?), was considered to have been unrecorded. It is gratifying to report that the foremost authority on this highly important hoard was delighted to learn of the catalogue through our listing.

A particularly embarrassing situation developed in 1861 when the collection of the Rev. Dr. Bulkeley Bandinel, D. D., late of the Bodleian Library at Oxford University, was offered in London. The listing of two coins in the catalogue, nice examples of the very rare Petition and Reddite crowns, must have caused some consternation in Oxford when it was discovered that their own specimens, which you may remember had been inherited from Thomas Knight many years before and had been under Dr. Bandinel's supervision, were not to be found. In the event, the coins were withdrawn and returned to the Bodleian and all annotated copies that we have examined discreetly leave the purchaser and price columns blank without comment. To be charitable, we must assume that the good Reverend merely had removed the pieces for study at home shortly before his death, with the University and his grieving family all unknowing.

The personalities of collectors can shine through in their catalogues, particularly if they had a hand in the preparation, and Edmund Shorthouse, who survived his 1886 sale by many years, 'assisted' the (we must assume) longsuffering cataloguer with frequent comments, such as:

Unless a starting bid of £15 is made, this lot [a 'Bello et Pace' pattern farthing of Anne] will be withdrawn on the ground, that if an important English coin of which only *three are known* is not worth £15, it is worth *nothing*.

Fortunately for Mr. Shorthouse's spleen, Spink bid the piece to £19.17.6.

A. B. Richardson fared less well at his 1895 sale of a rather fine English and Anglo-Gallic collection. Contemporary comments in one dealer's private copy note that the pedigree coins fetched some 30% less than Richardson paid because he bought for himself instead of through dealers (ahem!) and that the conditions were stated to be generally excellent in the preface but were not noted for each lot — "This was evidently fatal!"

The Viscount Bridport sale of the same year included Admiral Nelson's medals, orders, and decorations in the catalogue, but these were purchased in advance by the British Government for £2,500 and placed on display at the Royal Naval College at Greenwich. Unfortunately, on the night of 9 December 1900, someone broke into the exhibition hall and removed the Nelson relics. Although a reward of £200 was offered for their return (*BNAC*, p. 188), these priceless historical momentos never have been recovered.

From about the year 1900, sales of important collections are quite well known. Anyone interested in English coins must have heard of the turn-of-the-century sales of the Montagu, Murdoch, and Carlyon-Britton collections, for example. The number of numismatic auction sales decreased markedly during the First World War but increased in the 1920s and during the Great Depression of the 1930s many collections and even individual pieces were placed on the market. In 1937, for example, a 'well-known American collection' was sold, but 'for reasons not unconnected with American state duties,' the collector's name could not be divulged.

After the Second World War, it still was customary to think of London as the center for international numismatic auctions but in 1954 the famous King Farouk Collection was not allowed to leave Egypt even though Sotheby's was chosen to conduct the sale. 'Uncle Fred' Baldwin was dispatched to Cairo to catalogue, literally under the gun (two armed soldiers watching his every move), the 'Palace Collection' for the Revolutionary Government. Without reference materials at hand, Uncle Fred did the best he could but a 1933 U.S. \$20 gold piece was just another date to him and he included it without comment at the end of a run of seventeen double eagles — 'mostly extremely fine' (lot 185). Ten years later, great excitement again was aroused in the United States when two mint state 1794 U. S. silver dollars, obtained from the fledgling U. S. mint in that year, were offered from the Lord St. Oswald Collection. They sold for £4,000 (then \$11,200) each and both reached America where they have since changed hands at well over ten times that figure.

Even more recent sales also may have their notable points, although it may take several more generations for them to develop the patina of interest that comes with age. The 1960s saw a great increase in the number of numismatic specimens recovered from ships wrecked off the British Isles. In 1971, a number of sales had to be hurried up or postponed because of a general postal strike and this is reflected in the catalogues. In the same year, the first of the Elmore-Jones sales was held, unfortunately with very few provenances for his important coins because the tickets were missing when the collection was recovered from being stolen. Moral: keep an inventory separate from your coin collection if for no other reason than to be able to notify the police should anything happen to the collection itself.

Two other sales of that decade stand out for the age of their formation and the

opportunity they afford to obtain specimens with pedigrees going back to the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The Bridgewater House Collection, formed prior to c1740, was sold in 1972, and the Archbishop Sharp Collection (he had died in 1714), in 1977. Both offered unusual pieces that had been unseen and unknown (or virtually so) by the numismatic fraternity for 200-500 years.

Sales catalogues can be important tools in numismatic research and also, I hope it has been shown, can serve as fascinating contemporary documents of past times. It is hoped that these remarks may stimulate a wider interest in what some (but not N. B. S. members, of course) may consider as ephemera.

References:

BNAC - British Numismatic Auction Catalogues

NC - Numismatic Circular

SCMB - Seaby's Coin & Medal Bulletin

SNC - Spink's Numismatic Circular

Some Particular Advice to Those About to Start a Collection of Coins

James C. Risk
with thanks to
Marvin Kay, M.D.
Toronto, Ontario

Editor's Note: The following article was originally a lecture given at the opening session of the Coin Collecting Seminar held at the South Orange - Maplewood Adult School in the Autumn of 1963. It was first published in volume 5, number 1 of The Numismatic Review in 1964. In May of 1981, member Marvin Kay, M. D. read this essay to a meeting of the Toronto Coin Club, on the occasion of a meeting devoted exclusively to — gasp — numismatic literature!

You have really begun collecting when you realize that you want to know something about coins, and not before. I trust you will remember this, because you are likely to be impressed by the large number of collectors who really know very little about coins. They may talk about the missing dates in their Indian Head Cent series, or the water lines on a Canadian Dollar, but their knowledge is generally restricted to what they can see with their eyes, which is precisely what any non-collector with good vision can also see. There is no question that these forms of collecting have certain things to be said for them. The desire to complete a series is one of the basic collecting drives, while the discovery of die varieties and other surface differences can give a collector a pleasant thrill of personal achievement. Nevertheless, if you do not read books you will be deprived of an important source of real enjoyment. The true collector in the initial stages of his development should be more interested in buying coin books than he is in the coins themselves. One of the reasons for this piece of advice should be plain enough. There are a number of technical terms and technical facts about coins you must know. You can't very well make sensible purchases if you don't understand the language of the coin collecting world. It is also quite possible you will develop an interest in the coins of the Ancient world or modern Europe. Before

you decide on one or the other you will have to do considerable reading. But regardless of any specific list of "reasons", you should devote particular attention to building up your numismatic library because books will help you enjoy your hobby and extract the greatest measure of satisfaction from it.

Coin books can be roughly divided into three groups; the priced catalogue; the general work; and the detailed scientific treatise. All three have their uses, although the latter category is of more use to the advanced collector than to the beginner. Among the priced catalogues, many of you are probably already familiar with the excellent work done by the Whitman Publishing Company. It will not be possible to mention all of their publications. To refresh your memories, Yeoman's, "A Guide Book of United States Coins" (Familiarly called the "Red Book"), and his "A Catalogue of Modern World Coins"; Charlton's "Standard Catalogue of Canadian Coins" and Bressett's "A Guide Book of English Coins" are a few well-known examples dealing with modern issues. Once you turn to the Ancient and the earlier European coinage, you will find few priced catalogue books. The field of Roman coins, for example, is much too broad for any adequate catalogue of this nature to be issued. The books available are more literary and historical in their presentation. Certainly by far the best general work of the kind, dealing with the coinage issues of the entire world from Ancient times to our own day, is R. A. G. Carson's "Coins of the World", a superbly written and illustrated one-book library by an official of the British Museum. Whitman has two very useful little handbooks, "An Outline of Ancient Greek Coins," and "Reading and Dating Roman Imperial Coins," both of which are inexpensive and packed full of information for the beginner in those fields. Professor Davenport's standard volumes on European Crowns from the 18th to the 20th Century are a virtual "must" for any collector interested in dollar-sized coins of the World. To keep yourself familiar with the doings of other Collectors, you should also subscribe to the excellent weekly newspaper, "COIN WORLD", and join the American Numismatic Association, the national collecting fraternity, which publishes a monthly magazine called "The Numismatist". I have just mentioned the titles of a few books for your rough guidance. Any reliable coin dealer will stock them and be glad to show you what else is available as your collecting interests develop and take shape.

REVIEW

J. R. Grellman and Jules Reiver, *Attribution Guide for United States Large Cents, 1840-1857*. Minneapolis: Wes Rassmussen, 1986.

Chris Victor-McCawley
Chandler, Oklahoma

Editor's Note: This review appeared in a recent number of Penny Wise, and is reprinted here with the kind permission of the author.

The second volume of the Grellman/Reiver attribution guide for late date Large Cents has just been published. In many ways it is superior even to the excellent first volume published earlier this year. The first volume covered varieties from 1840-1848 and was considered important enough to be awarded the Numismatic Literary Guild's "Book of the Year" award at the recent American Numismatic Association convention.

The second volume covers all business strike varieties from 1849-1857. With the

exception of the 1849s, this represents those dates least-collected in the series. And until now there has been good reason for that. The varieties 1850-1856 are surely the most difficult to attribute. The dramatic breaks and die cracks of the 1840s are largely absent. Moreover, the similarity of many of the dies coupled with even the slightest amount of die wear made attribution using the old Newcomb guide almost impossible. Reiver's quick finder guide was a big step forward. However there were still ambiguities. Different die states caused many of the diagnostics described in the previous texts to disappear. In my own case this resulted in an ever-growing population of 51s, 52s and 56s that made their way from the back to the front of my "to be attributed" box only to be returned to the back of the box again.

Volume II of the Grellman/Reiver book goes a long way toward solving some of the difficulties in attributing the late dates. First the excellent line drawing illustrations of each variety do far more than even the sharpest photoplate could in depicting the various hairline cracks and tiny points diagnostic of many varieties. In addition, extensive die state descriptions make it possible to attribute coins in states in which the most common diagnostics have disappeared. It should be mentioned here that many varieties have been delisted. So prepare yourself! Your treasured 1851 C-19 has been transformed into a lowly N-10. But there is good news too; that C-26 you were proud of is still pretty spiffy as a C-23, rarity 6. Incidentally, the rarity factors represent very well-informed best guesses. Of course they are not 100% correct. Nor will any rarity ratings ever be. Many of the ratings were taken from *Copper Quotes* by Jack Robinson and represent insofar as is known current population and availability of the various varieties. Keep in mind that this is a pioneer effort. Many, many coins are yet to be attributed. It is seldom heard of for groups of a scarce variety to come to light all at once. This happened with a small hoard of 1854 C-8s, a variety unlisted in Newcomb, that were found in the Abe Kosof estate in 1985.

One thing I would have liked to have seen was an attempt at a condition census. The information must certainly be difficult to obtain or verify, but a best guess could be offered and adjusted as collectors claim to have CC specimens. Undoubtedly the CC is high for most varieties with numerous mint state specimens available. On the other hand other varieties, 48 C-22, 48-C45, 49 N-21, 51 N-34, 53 N-31 seem to be represented mostly by lower grade coins.

In summation, the content is excellent and the book itself is very well-produced. The text comes bound loose-leaf in a sturdy binder so that additional pages, notes and updates can be added. The printing was done by EACer Wes Rasmussen of Minneapolis. It is of exceptional quality; obviously extra care was taken in its preparation. I cannot imagine anyone interested in coins that would not benefit from having this book in their library. Certainly possession of both volumes is a must for anyone afflicted with even a mild case of Copper Fever!

New England Journal of Numismatics

Steve Helfer
Chicago, Illinois

A new journal has recently made its debut in numismatic circles. The *New England Journal of Numismatics* is an 8½" x 11" magazine with a stunningly uncramped look, and much utility for both intermediate and advanced collectors. Although no color is employed, it is generously illustrated in black and white,

and it is very inviting to read.

The journal's contents are varied and well-written. Its notable contributors include such numismatic luminaries as Walter Breen and Elvira Clain-Stefanelli. The articles satisfy the advanced collector's hunger for detail without overwhelming the intermediate collector. Its pages are uncluttered by advertising and will provide many hours of excellent reading.

I would highly recommend subscribing to their four quarterly issues at \$25. The address is *New England Journal of Numismatics*, 89 Devonshire Street, Boston, MA 92109. This journal may become very popular, and a subscription for at least the first year should be added to one's library.

Editor's note: As these words are written, the editors of NEJN are offering a free copy of vol. 1, no. 1 with every subscription. However, the recent court-ordered liquidation of the assets of NEJN's parent, New England Rare Coin Galleries, has left the Journal's future in doubt. We do not recommend subscribing at this time; if you are already a subscriber, inquiries may be directed to: Joseph F. Ryan, Special Counsel Appointed by U. S. District Court, John W. McCormack Building, Box 4519, Boston, MA 92101.

The Last Word

In his letter to the editor elsewhere in this issue, Dave Bowers suggests that it might be time to re-title the old journal, on the grounds that a name like *The Asylum* has negative connotations and projects a frivolous image of both the N. B. S. and its journal.

Hats off to Dave for walking into a metaphorical minefield! N. B. S. graybeards like your editor remember that our names have been an issue from day one. Refer, for instance, to Vol. 1, Nos. 2 & 3 of *The Asylum*, in which you will find, on p. 25, the following statement: "I do not approve of the name Bibliomania and will never join under that name." (signed) G. L. Others are very devoted to our "crazy" nomenclature of "Bibliomania" and "Asylum".

Your editor's own preference is to rename both our organization and our publication. But what do *you* think? We will hold a straw poll on the subject; simply drop a note to us with "change it" if you want new names, or "keep it" if you like the status quo. Deadline for votes is Saturday, May 16. Remember that this is only a straw poll; your decision will not be binding.

Keep those cards, letters and articles coming!

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Where is human nature so weak as in the bookstore!

— Henry Ward Beecher

THE ASYLUM

Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Volume V, No. 2

Summer, 1987

Inside:

GEORGE FREDERICK KOLBE, our President and "host with the most," provides us with "An Introduction to the Fascinating World of Numismatic Literature," beginning on page 9

CARLING GRESHAM has written an article about research — or shooting craps. Find out which by reading "Research: Necessity, Curiosity and a Roll of the Dice . . ." on page 10

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

FAREWELL MESSAGE

The past two years have been momentous ones for the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. Revived by immediate past-president Cal Wilson and his fellow officers, NBS has grown and flourished. Carling Gresham brought new life to *The Asylum* and our current editor, Joel Orosz, has it brimming with vitality.

At our business meeting last year, the NBS Board unanimously decided to request a club booth at the 1987 American Numismatic Association Convention in Atlanta (volunteers are needed to man the booth and additional information regarding this worthwhile project will be found elsewhere in this issue). It was also decided that an NBS writer's award be created and presented annually to the author of the best article appearing in *The Asylum*. The Armand Champa Award will be presented for the first time at our annual meeting in Atlanta on August 26th, 1987.

The only real cloud on our horizon is financial. Before the end of the year we will be emulating our Federal Government. Hopefully, our booth on the ANA Midway this August, and the recruiting efforts of members will secure many new recruits. If not, the ante will likely be a bit more when dues-paying time comes around. Save yourself a few bucks and convince a fellow bibliophile to join our group.

Response to the straw poll regarding the name of our organization and its publication has been sparse, so a section has been added to the election ballots being sent with this issue where you may indicate your preference. Personally, it seems to me that the name of our organization and its publication should be offensive to no one. The present names certainly reflect the sometimes irrational though often enjoyable acquisitive compulsions of many of our members. Yes, forming a numismatic library can be fun. But what of other benefits that can be derived? Should not dissemination of useful information be a paramount concern? As stated in the first issue of *The Asylum*, "the purpose (of NBS) will be several fold: We will, hopefully, enlighten, inform, and entertain." Should not our name reflect also the more serious aspects of collecting numismatic literature, and even if nine of ten bibliophiles like our current name would it not be better if all ten found our name acceptable?

The past two years have been very busy ones for me, both personally and professionally. Time spent on NBS affairs has been limited and I would personally like to thank all those who have contributed to the success of the Society. Special thanks are due fellow officers and board members, particularly Alan Meghriq who has assumed duties far beyond the scope of his office. Board member Cal Wilson was also especially helpful. In our group, it's the Editor who really does all the work. Thanks, Carling and Joel. Finally, without writers for our journal, our society would not exist. Thanks to all who have contributed and an exhortation to all who have not to do so soon.

From the Editor

The "keeps" are ahead! As of Saturday, May 9, this is the tally of the Straw Poll: Keep the names: 7; Change the Names: 3. Since responses are still coming in, the results will not be announced until the Autumn issue.

It seems clear that there is a support both for keeping and for changing the names. It

will be interesting to see if this two-to-one split holds until all the votes are in. For details on the great controversy, see the "Letters to the Editor" section.

The first rule of publishing is to never admit that you have lots of manuscripts on hand. Sure enough, since your editor indiscreetly admitted that fact in this space of the Spring issue, not a single manuscript has come in. We still have a lot of material on hand, but not so much that we can afford complacency. We continue to look for more articles in the vein of Dave Bowers' fine contribution of the last number: that is, reminiscences of numismatics in years past. A review of the new third edition of the A.N.A. grading guide will also be thankfully received. So start scribbling everyone!

Not with a Bang, but a Whimper Dept. — No bids were received for *The Asylum* page proofs. Lot withdrawn!

PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS

"The Saga of the West: The Tokens of Matt Warner" by Harry F. Campbell

"Revisiting the Early 1950's, Part II" by Q. David Bowers

Review of *Numismatics: Witness to History* by Randolph Zander

"Numismatic Match Game" by A. Scurrilous Rumor

And . . . An entirely new regular feature!

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

1. A well-balanced issue! I hope we may attract enough new members to support the 32p. format. Your point about proportionately too much overhead in the 16p. version states the problem perfectly.

2. I would vote to keep the current names. A touch of panache does no harm; and I do not favor those outfits and periodicals that keep retreading.

Randolph Zander
Alexandria, Virginia

To the Editor:

I appreciate your solicitation of comments regarding the names of the organization and the journal. I think that some people automatically take too seriously anything proffered in a purely light-hearted vein. I have no objection to the whimsical nature of either name; my only adverse comment would be that the title *The Asylum* is not really descriptive out of context.

I am reminded of another publication of a couple of decades back: the Ancient Coin Club of America's *The Voice of the Turtle*, a charming literary non-sequitur, with their symbol of the Aegina "Turtle," (a true Chelonian). This name was eventually changed to the far more erudite *North American Journal of Numismatics*. Not long afterward, the publication expired (not necessarily *post hoc, ergo propter hoc*!).

After re-reading this, I am not sure I answered the question. My vote is not to change either name for the sake of change; if a truly superior and descriptive name is found to evoke broad support — fine, change it.

William Malkmus
La Mesa, California

To the Editor:

Re. the straw poll on *The Asylum* and the *Numismatic Bibliomania Society*, please

keep those names! They fit!

L. Miles Raisig, Ph.D.
Laurinburg, North Carolina

Editor's note: Welcome aboard, Dr. R.!

To the Editor:

CHANGE IT! Both "Asylum" and "Bibliomania" may be O.K. for us real nuts, but we want a wider appeal than just to the "hard core".

Keep the initials, "N.B.S." if possible — such as Numismatic Book Society or Numismatic Bibliophilic Society.

The journal's name is more difficult. "The Alcove" (such as in a library — too sedate). "Numismatic Bibliophilic Review" (too stuffy). "Numismatic Bookshelf" — maybe there should be a naming contest.

Kirby Brown, Ph.D.
Stockton, California

To the Editor:

As a charter "bibliomaniac" I read with great interest the latest issue of *The Asylum*. Boo and hiss to all fuddy duddies like Q. David, and unfortunately yourself, who would consider renaming our organization and our journal. This has been argued and discussed from Vol. 1. There is nothing wrong with being a little bit nuts about numismatic literature, and the day that I cannot laugh at myself over my many and varied interests I will quit. Chalk up one vote for KEEP IT.

Also, being basically frugal, I will do my best to bring others into the fold so we can keep the fine *Asylum* in its current size without a dues increase. Keep up your fine efforts.

J. Richard Becker
Acton, Massachusetts

To the Editor:

Keep it!

Joseph E. Boling
Reston, Virginia

To the Editor:

Please don't change the name! I'm happy as a clam in *The Asylum*!

Wayne Homren
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

To the Editor:

In reference to changing the name of our journal, I vote to change it.

The name "Bibliomania", sounds too much like a novelty shop, and the present name of our journal connotes the obvious. It never has bothered me though, perhaps because I have associated the name with the great work you and the others have put into it. I think the name should be changed so that potential members will give it a chance.

How about the name, "Numismabib"? I think of it as a lively merger of Numismatics and Bibliomania. Or, how about using the N.B.S. initials with a symbolic background?

I enjoy the Numismatic Bibliomania Society's Journal, whatever it is called, and I believe many more would appreciate it, if only they knew about it.

Suppose we should add a centerfold?

Dean S. Neff
Greenville, Ohio

Editor's note: With regard to your last idea, we had better ask Armand — he has been renting it lately!

To the Editor:

I'm a new member of N.B.S. but I agree with you and Dave Bowers that it's time to re-title The Asylum and the Society. If the organization is renamed, I think it would be useful to come up with a name that could still be abbreviated to N.B.S.

As for the journal's financial problems, I sent Alan Meghrig a little extra with my 1987 dues to help N.B.S. I have also ordered all the back issues.

Robert L. Brownell, Jr.
San Simeon, California

Editor's note: Welcome to the fold, Bob, and thanks for supporting the N.B.S. above and beyond the call of duty!

To the Editor:

I am responding to the question about changing the name of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society and its publication, *The Asylum*. At this time I am in favor of keeping both names as they are.

It is difficult to respond to a choice between a known name and an unspecified new name. It is possible that a new name might be proposed that I would support. However, I doubt it. There may be those who prefer four letter words to words with four syllables. They might enjoy belonging to the "Coin Book Club".

I also am responding to comments about increasing membership numbers in order to hold down the cost of membership. I have stuck with NBS through times of unfilled promises and erratic publication schedules. I never accepted the explanation that we were getting four issues a year when they came two at a time. Calling an issue a double issue doesn't impress me. I am not surprised that half of our original membership has drifted away. I hope that a good product will bring some of them back and attract new members as well. I believe that the key to increasing membership is to have something good to offer. This has not been true in the past. What I have seen in the past couple of issues gives me hope.

I have only been able to attend two of the NBS meetings at ANA. I believe these are also important for promoting membership. Regional meetings at major shows might help. Adding a literature classification for numismatic display competition might help.

I wonder if there is a way to get the newsletter down a little closer to the level of the average member. The EAC newsletter, *Penny-Wise*, has free ads for members to offer a few items for sale. In *Asylum* the ads are from the large dealers. How does the "little guy" sell off a few duplicates or indicate an interest in finding some obscure reference? As a writer I would like to be able to request research assistance. There are a couple of examples of that in this issue. I think this sort of thing will help promote the organization.

I have rambled on beyond the original intent of the letter. Keep the names!

Pete Smith
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Editor's note: We are always happy to print legitimate requests for research help free of charge. We also offer classified ads at a nominal rate of ten cents per word, although lately not many folks have been placing them.

NUMISMATIC BIBLIOMANIA SOCIETY NEWS

N.B.S. ELECTION

Enclosed in this issue is the official ballot of the 1987 election for officers and trustees of the NBS. Please exercise your right to choose your leaders. You will notice that there is also a space on the ballot to note your preference on the great debate

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regarding keeping or changing our names. We simply did not receive enough votes in the straw poll to guide the Board's decision, either to change or to stand pat.

In light of recent national events, your crusading editor has staked out the homes of randomly-selected candidates, and can report with certainty that none are carrying on with Donna Rice!

N.B.S. ANNUAL MEETING SET

Speaking of the Annual Meeting, you might want to know the date and time. Our annual conclave will be held, as always, during the ANA Anniversary Convention, on Wednesday, August 26th, 1987 at 8 p.m. in room number 265/266 of the Georgia World Congress Center. The program will consist of a color slide presentation by Armand Champa, highlighting some of the better books in his superb numismatic library. Alan Grace, the master binder who is responsible for some of the fine bindings in Armand's collection, will assist Armand in his presentation.

In addition to the presentation to the first winner of the Armand Champa award, the results of the NBS election and the straw poll on the names will be announced. As always, there will be plenty of insulting repartee before, during and after the official meeting. Plan to attend! Bring some books!

FIRST NBS WRITER'S AWARD

The first NBS writers award, for the best article published in *The Asylum* during each calendar year will — may we have the envelope please — be presented at the N.B.S. Annual Meeting during the ANA convention. The idea to honor our best came from the fertile mind of Carling Gresham, and has been perpetually endowed by Armand Champa. It will consist of a handsome wall plaque, and in honor of Armand's generosity, the Board has dubbed it "The Armand Champa Award". Indefatigable bibliophile Randolph Zander was chosen to select and chair a committee to judge the articles of 1986. Ran chose Nancy Green and Leo Guibault to be his committee, and meeting in great secrecy, they have made their decision. Join us in Atlanta to discover who won . . .

MIDWAY MADNESS

At each ANA convention, a section of the bourse is reserved for numismatic specialty clubs to allow them to promote themselves. This year, for the first time, the NBS has one. This is a golden opportunity to recruit the additional members that we so desperately need. But we need you! We need members to man the booth, exhibit their favorite books, waylay unsuspecting numismatists, share a sample copy of *The Asylum*, put an application form into their hands, and browbeat 'em 'till they sign up! Sound like fun? If so, please drop George Kolbe a note ASAP, being careful to note the days and times that you are willing to work. Glass display cases will be provided, and your books need only be displayed while you are manning the booth. In order to be effective we need to cover the booth 100% of the time. The Convention hours are as follows:

Wednesday, August 26, 1987	11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Thursday, August 27, 1987	12 noon to 7 p.m.
Friday, August 28, 1987	12 noon to 8 p.m.
Saturday, August 29, 1987	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday, August 30, 1987	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FASCINATING WORLD OF NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

George Frederick Kolbe
Crestline, California

Editor's note: This is a modified version of George's speech at 1986 ANA Educational Forum.

Literally millions of different kinds of coins have been manufactured over the past 3000 years. Untold numbers of medals, orders and decorations, tokens, paper currency, primitive and other media of exchange have also been produced. All have come to be classified under the heading of "numismatics". Many people, however, including even veteran coin collectors, are unaware of the vast body of numismatic literature that has been written to interpret and classify these items.

When I first started selling numismatic literature on a full-time basis, I soon came to dread the inevitable question of a new acquaintance: "Well, what do you do for a living, George?" At first I would respond, "I buy and sell rare and out of print numismatic books." That was a mistake. Even if the new acquaintance knew the meaning of "numismatic," you could usually tell from the skeptical look in his eye that he was thinking, "surely there can't be more than a handful of old books written on coins. Old George must be starving." Sometimes it was worse. The new acquaintance didn't know the meaning of "numismatic." As soon as I mentioned the word "coins," I instantly became a coin dealer. After all, how could anyone make a living selling a few musty books about coins? Sometimes, it got even worse. Two years after I began selling numismatic books full-time, my wife kicked me out of the house. When even our living room became an "Alice in Wonderland" garden maze (the garden maze being comprised of ever-growing bookshelves) it became time to find an office. A suitable space was soon found but the leasing agent seemed to be hesitant. Taking me aside, he asked in a low voice: "These books you're selling about numismatics," (I hardly need mention that he horribly mispronounced the word "numismatics"), "these books, they're not . . . uh . . . dirty books are they?"

Well, I'm here tonight to let you know that there are lots and lots of numismatic books, and that relatively few of them are dirty. To give you an idea of the size and scope of the literature of numismatics, let us consider but one facet: ancient numismatics. If one wished to possess a complete library of works on ancient numismatics, several hundred feet of shelf space and several thousand dollars would be required. Those of you who have visited the American Numismatic Association Library in Colorado Springs know that there are lots of coin books. The Library occupies over 2000 square feet and there is some 3000 linear feet of shelf space and that space is almost entirely filled.

In 1962, the G.K. Hall publishing company added the American Numismatic Society to its program of issuing catalogues of specialized libraries, and 110,000 cross-referenced file cards in the society's catalogue were reproduced in six oversized volumes with an additional volume devoted to the 15,000 file cards of auction catalogues. Subsequently, three supplements were issued, with over 60,000 additional file reproduced. Eliminating cross-referenced titles, it is safe today, I think, to say the A.N.S. Library houses nearly 100,000 different numismatic publications. Now, the Society has arguably the best numismatic library in the world, but its holdings are

certainly not complete.

Where did this all start? *George's article will be continued in the next issue . . .*

RESEARCH: Necessity, Curiosity, and a Roll of the Dice . . .

Carling Gresham

Pomona Park, Florida

One of the Mizner boys said it: "If you steal from one author it's plagiarism, but if you steal from many, it's research." Doubtless, there are many thieves among us . . . in ALL walks of life. However, in defense of those writers who "... steal from many," I would like to offer two rhetorical questions, both of which are pertinent to this essay.

(1) How many people do you know who have had an *original* idea, and made it public knowledge? (Do not confuse *methods* with *ideas*, and ask yourself if ALL ideas have been used). I like to think that those of us who "steal" are not thieves at all, but collators; e.g., different points of information about a subject are published by 20 authors from 10 points on the globe in 5 languages. (2) Is it theft to coalesce these different facts and opinions into a whole, new article, and to present it, with proper credits, as one's own work?

Have you ever wondered how much of "modern civilization" is the result of chance alone? *What* started the Wright brothers thinking that they could fly? Man did not *need* to fly, so the work was not necessary; their first flight had to be a combination of curiosity and luck. What about that lost, forgotten fellow who built the first wheel? Was it necessity, curiosity or just plain luck? How about the one who developed the common handplow blade? Or, the one who developed the screw? The list is endless, inexhaustible.

This brief article hardly relates to any necessity of mankind, but it is written to suggest that much of our successful research, regardless of the discipline, is due to curiosity and a roll of the dice . . . luck. The following examples of luck are basically true, however, "literary license," i.e., I can lie a lot, has been taken with one. Names have been changed to protect the innocent. *The innocent will be revealed next time . . .*



T'is the good reader that makes the good book.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Last Word

In early April, your editor received some information relating to the unfortunate Kurt Krueger — A.N.A. affair. The information itself was not extraordinary — all of it was in the public domain — but the way we received it certainly was. No cover letter was included. The envelope had no return address; it was postmarked from Chicago. Our address was typed on a xerox label, which suggests that the letter was part of a large mailing to several numismatic publications. Just above the label, in large red letters, was stamped the single word, "IMPORTANT".

"Important" this subject is, but "in" it does not go, for a very simple reason. We firmly believe that *The Asylum* must be an open forum for controversy, but that controversy must not be between "Mr. X" and "Mr. Y". If you have something controversial to say, you must have the courage and the integrity to sign your name to it. That is our policy.

We do accept pseudonyms, of course, for contributions that are purely educational or entertaining; after all, I doubt if anyone believes that there really is a bibliophile out there named "A. Scurrilous Rumor". But if you want to attack someone or something — which muck we *love* to rake! — sign your name or your submission will never be set in type. Around here, we do things conversely from Zenith: "the name goes on before the quality goes in."

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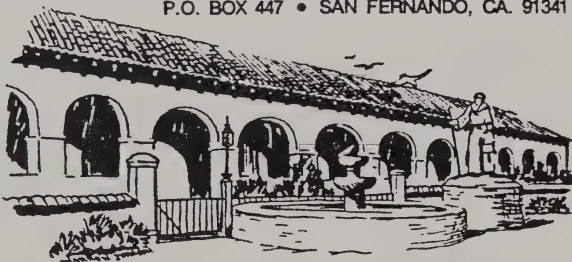
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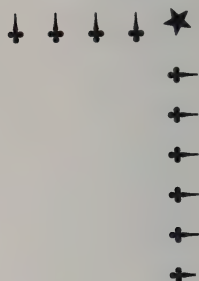
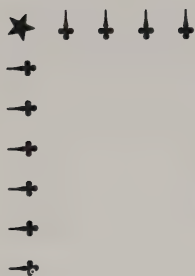
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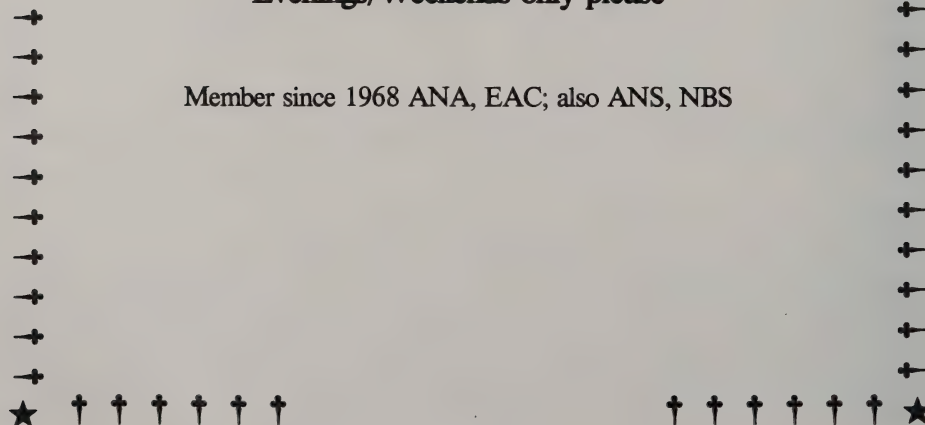
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— Geoffrey Chaucer
from *The Book of the Duchess*

THE ASYLUM

Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Volume V, No. 3

Autumn, 1987

Inside:

P. SCOTT RUBIN has boldly gone where no man (except John Adams) has gone before! Read about their discovery in "Facts About the A.N.A. Auction Catalogs of 1907 and Mid-Winter 1980 Through 1987" page 5

DAVE BOWERS tells how he tried to "buy the book before the coin," with surprising results, in "A Difference of Opinion," on page 19

JEFF ROCK claims that he is a cute bibliomaniac (I think). Judge for yourself by reading "Ramblings of an Acute Bibliomaniac" beginning on page 9

HARRY CAMPBELL asks "Who are those guys" who issued these tokens? "The Saga of the West" tells all on page 11

REMY BOURNE says everything is fixed. Get the straight dope in "Fixed Price List: The Forgotten Part of Literature Collections", on page 13

GEORGE KOLBE, ex-president, but still a great guy, continues his biblioprimers, "An Introduction to the Fascinating World of Numismatic Literature." The second installment continues with page 21

CARLING GRESHAM begins the ending of "Research: Necessity, Curiosity, and a Roll of the Dice. . ." The end begins on page 7

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THE ASYLUM**Vol. V, No. 3****Editor: Joel Orosz, Ph.D.****Spring, 1987**

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From the Editor

Biblio-bits for our readers:

— Let it never be said that we don't practice what we preach. N.B.S. gray-beards will recall that way back at the 1984 annual meeting, your editor spoke on the subject of preserving leather and paper. This speech was evidently quite long-winded, for it was later serialized over *three* issues of *The Asylum*, from Vol. II, No. 4 to Vol. III, No. 2. In both speech and article, we extolled the virtues of acid-free paper, which will remain white and supple long after ordinary acidic paper has turned yellow and brittle.

Quite independently, our publishing guru, Nils Peterson of the Rayline Press, discovered that he could, for very little extra cost, put out *The Asylum* on acid-free paper. In the interest of publishing a journal with the highest possible standard of quality, he approached your editor, and received an enthusiastic go-ahead. The first issue printed on acid-free stock was the Spring, 1987 number. All hereafter will be printed on acid-free paper, to the benefit of our membership and of our posterity. If only Nils (and the process for removing acid) had been around in the 19th century when they were printing the *AJN's* and *The Numismatists!* Nils has consented to write an article about acid-free paper, which will be appearing next year in *The Asylum*.

— Congratulations to members John Adams and P. Scott Rubin, who independently discovered a hitherto-unknown A.N.A. auction catalogue. To paraphrase the old saying, "all things come to those who look." Read Scott's account of the search elsewhere in this issue.

— Many thanks to member Dave Bowers, who will be exposing thousands of collectors on his mailing list to the idea of N.B.S. membership. Look for the notice in *Rare Coin Review* No. 66. Kudos as well to members Ken Lowe and Myron Xenos, two of the craziest numismatists and bibliomaniacs in captivity. They have promised to plug the N.B.S. in a future sale by The Money Tree, provided they are not locked away in a *real* Asylum before then. If any other member who puts out publications would consider doing the same, please contact us, and we will send you copy by return mail.

— As long as we have the attention of member dealers, how about an offer you can't refuse? Send us the results of your literature sales, and we will publish them, as space permits.

— And finally, a tip of the hat to the Collector's Club of Boston for their enlightenment. According to the June 10, 1987 issue of *Coin World*, the May meeting of this group was designated as "Library Night", at which "members were encouraged to bring their favorite numismatic books, old catalogs or any other references and then give a short explanation of the items." Hooray for the Collector's Club, and may many more follow their example!

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I recently sent \$15.00 to the N.B.S. Half of this went to extend my subscription by one year, and the other half is a contribution to the N.B.S.

If my fellow members would do the same, the N.B.S. would no longer have a cash flow problem.

I know that various dealers advertise in *The Asylum*, but how about these dealers helping out the N.B.S. with a cash contribution? I am sure they reap benefits as a result of their advertising.

It is a pleasure to read *The Asylum* since you became its editor.

Jules J. Bloch II

Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania

Editor's Note: Thank you, Jules, for the kind words for us, and especially for your generous contribution to the cause.

To the Editor:

Here are my comments concerning the latest issue of *The Asylum*. First of all, I agree that the name should be changed. The name is not very dignified and denotes a bunch of crazed individuals. Whether the name change will bring in more paying customers remains to be seen.

Second, please have Q. David Bowers write some more articles. I enjoy his writing style and the information he discusses in his articles. This issue was a good one.

Bob Yuell

Plainsboro, New Jersey

To the Editor:

I'm adding a little comment on the latest issue of *The Asylum*, which I got some days ago. As for Mr. Bowers "letter to the editor", I prefer *The Numismatic Bibliophile* rather than *The Asylum* and *Numismatic Bibliophiles' Association* rather than NBS.

Regarding the last issue of *The Asylum*, I would like to remind everybody that our periodical should be a forum for *all* friends and collectors of numismatic literature.

There have been printed books and other kinds of numismatic literature since the beginning of the 16th century and in at least 50 different languages worldwide. As far as the features being published in those issues of *The Asylum*, dealing with numismatic literature — some are not, I'm afraid — they generally do only cover a very small area of numismatic literature: books, catalogs and magazines printed in the USA during the past 100 years!

I cannot imagine that those learned American collectors do not want to look over the fence! If, as the editor states, there is plenty of material to be printed, there should be an effort to do more for worldwide numismatic literature. I am sure that would help enlarging the number of members too!

Reinhold Jordan

Schweinfurt, Federal Republic of Germany

Editor's Note: Reinhold has a valid point. Your editor would welcome manuscripts on worldwide numismatic literature. See "The Last Word" for further comment.

To the Editor:

I know I should have gotten this letter to you by May 16. What can I say? I was busy. Anyway, about the issue of names for our Society and our publication, I have some thoughts. I have always thought of *The Asylum* more as a place of refuge than as an institution of custodial care. In fact, my mania is more sanctuary than restraint.

In fact, the Second College Edition of Webster's New World Dictionary uses bibliomania as an example of our kind of obsession. Having made those comments, I

must now confess that I'm not very intensely moved one way or the other about the names. The following is my suggestion:

You want new names? Use this list. I did. In about ten minutes I got 12 names for the publication and 23 names for the society, association, club, etc. Try it yourself. Just put some together.

Society	Coin/Currency
Association	Money
Club	Exchange
Numismatic	Literature/Literary
Book	Print
International	National
American	United States (US) (USA)
Bibliophile(s)	Catalog
Collector(s)	Alliance
Federation	League

Leo J. Guibault, Jr.
New Orleans, Louisiana

N.B.S. News

Member Wayne K. Homren has organized a regional meeting of the N.B.S. during the annual convention of the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists in Lancaster. The dates for this convention will be October 30, 31, and November 1. The N.B.S. meeting will be held on Saturday, October 31st at 4:00 p.m. An informal presentation will be given by avid bibliophile John Burns of Pittsburgh. (John is not yet an N.B.S. member, but we want him!) If you live anywhere near Lancaster, you will be expected to attend, or else have your mother send Wayne a note with a *good* excuse! If you have questions, please contact:

Wayne K. Homren
1810 Antietam Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

The necessity of going to press before the annual meeting precludes us from reporting on the annual meeting and the board meeting of the Society at the A.N.A. convention. Stay tuned for a full report in the Winter Issue.

Facts about the American Numismatic Association Auction Catalogs of 1907 and Mid-Winter 1980 through 1987

P. Scott Rubin
Lawrenceville, New Jersey

The first A.N.A.-sponsored auction, for which an auction catalog is known to have been issued, occurred September 3, 1907. This is contrary to the generally-known information about A.N.A. Sales. Henry Chapman's 1908 Auction for the

A.N.A. convention in Philadelphia has for years been considered the first such sale. The fact is that Ben G. Green's 32nd sale took place in Columbus, Ohio, the site of the A.N.A. convention, at the request of the organization.

I would like to take a moment to relate how I came upon this fact and then I will describe the evidence of this as it exists in the catalog itself.

I received from Martin Gengerke a copy of his book *American Numismatic Auctions*. This book, which lists over 10,000 known American auction sales, was issued in three volumes for the first time (this is the seventh edition of his book). Volume I lists auctions by auction house or cataloger, volume II lists auctions in chronological order, volume III lists sales by consignors or convention names. Volume II and volume III being new gave me the opportunity to search for catalogs in ways that were too time-consuming before.

I decided to see if there were any sales that took place at the same time as early A.N.A. conventions. Using Mr. Gengerke's Volume II, from which I had access to dates of sales and the 1978 *Coin World Almanac* from which I obtained information about dates and sites of A.N.A. conventions, I started comparing the two lists.

From the beginning of A.N.A. conventions until 1904 (there were no conventions held in 1905 and 1906), I found nothing promising. However, the 1907 A.N.A. Convention took place in Columbus, Ohio at the Neil House on September 2 thru 4. In the chronological listing of auctions there were two sales listed as having taken place on September 3, 1907. One of these sales was cataloged by the Chicago dealer Ben G. Green. I pulled my copy of this sale from its shelf and verified that the date was indeed September 3, 1907. Nothing else on the cover would lead you to believe the sale was connected with the A.N.A. convention, however on the inside title page I noted that the sale was to take place at the Board of Trade Building, Columbus, Ohio. Even though this was the same city as the A.N.A. convention, there was still nothing on the title page to show a connection. The proof came on the next page.

At the top of that page the following was written:

"This sale will be held in Columbus, O., during the American Numismatic Association Convention, it being the wish of the officers to afford visiting members an opportunity for attendance at a public Coin Auction. An endeavor has been made to list a little of everything in the numismatic field."

After reading this I got in touch with John W. Adams, because I knew that he was near completion of his book which is the second volume about U.S. coin auctions. I learned that Mr. Adams had already learned of the 1907 A.N.A. auction and will include this in this upcoming book. I am looking forward to this book as I know it will include a lot of information that is not available anywhere else. Keep up the great work John!

I have noticed that articles have appeared in *The Asylum* about the annual A.N.A. auctions, including "About Those A.N.A. Auction Catalogs" by Cal Wilson and "Trial List of A.N.A. Auction Catalogs" by Michael J. Sullivan. Little or nothing has been written about the mid-winter annual A.N.A. auctions.

Following is a list of auction catalogs I know exist for these mid-winter convention sales.

	Dates	Auction House	Lots
1.	2/14 & 16/1980	Cunningham's	577

2.	2/6-7/1981	Cunningham's	642
3.	2/18-20/1982	Kurt R. Krueger	2,127
4.	2/24-26/1983	Steve Ivy Numismatic Auctions	2,237
5.	2/23-26/1984	Heritage Numismatic Auctions	3,067
6.	2/21-23/1985	Heritage Numismatic Auctions	2,166
7.	2/20-22/1986	Heritage Numismatic Auctions	3,074
8.	2/27-3/1/1987	Heritage Numismatic Auctions	3,053

If anyone has any information to add to this list please write to the author in care of *The Asylum*.

Editor's Note: Scott's & John's discovery is confirmed by the following line from page 288 of the October-November, 1907 issue of The Numismatist:

In the evening Dr. Ben G. Green held his 32nd auction sale in the Convention rooms. Congratulations to Scott Rubin and John Adams on their discovery!

RESEARCH: Necessity, Curiosity, and a Roll of the Dice . . .

Carling Gresham
Pomona Park, Florida

Editor's Note: This is the final section, the final point, in other words the end of the article begun by Carling in the last issue.

Recently in these pages you read about Jose T. Medina, his life, and his active part in numismatics. Dare I admit that the article was the direct result of a throw of the dice? About six years ago I received one of Medina's books from Frederick Kolbe; on the title page was the obscure phrase, "Imprenta Elzeviriana," which piqued my curiosity mildly.

Within a week of receiving the book I was browsing a tiny, obscure bookshop about 800 feet under the Atlantic, or located somewhere equally as remote, when I STUMBLED across Dr. Sarah Roberts' bio-bibliography of Medina! (It is a bit on the scarce side, maybe even rare.)

Beginning with Dr. Roberts' book, I began buying and reading everything about Medina that I could locate, entailing many hours of labor, and considerable expense, too, but that, friend, is an example of research; planned research, however, I am unable to say WHO planned it! I will suggest, though, that I enjoyed the work and results more than anyone.

During the ANA convention in New Orleans several years ago I bought a one-thousand dollar bond issued by the Union Bank of Tallahassee in 1838, i.e., Territorial Florida paper, which I collect. The bond is cataloged by Criswell as 38-A, and was the only type Union Bank bond known until recently.

A year ago a *different* bond on the Union Bank "walked" into the coin shop where I work, on one of the TWO days a week that I work there. The shop owner did not want it, and offered it to me, which, with malice in heart (mind?) I GRABBED!

The bond has caused my library to expand, and it has increased my knowledge, but can I convey to the public all, or even half, of what I have learned? The bond may be pleased to know that it has four uncataloged companions, and possibly a fifth; my

"research," begun six months ago, continues, hopefully to be presented in an orderly manner in *Paper Money* in the near future.

Another rhetorical question: Did that bond knowingly direct its owner to walk into a shop where there was ONE person, in a city of about 700,000, who would want it, love it, care for it, and reveal its presence to the world? Was it all chance? Call it luck?

In January of 1986 I bought at auction an 1817 Amelia Island medal, which has become the centerpiece of my Florida medals exhibit; I had been trying "for years" to get one, but I usually was in second place.

I displayed the medal at the Clearwater, Florida, coin show on July 4th, where I had three surprises: The owner of another specimen revealed himself to me; the medal was stolen, but recovered, and I met another person, I will call him Charlie, who wanted a specimen, and the story is as follows:

Charlie's friend, Larry, approached me, and the conversation went like this. Larry: "Where'd you get that thing?" (The medal). I told him, then he asked, "How much?" Crude, I thought, but I told him. "That's funny," he said, "'cause Charlie Repucci bid \$1500 on that medal . . ."

"T-U-F-F," I replied, "'cause I have a bill of sale for it . . . maybe Charlie's check bounced, and mine didn't." "THAT ain't funny," he said, "'cause Charlie don't write no bad paper . . . but he'll be here Saturday (this was on Thursday,) and I'm gonna' ask him why he didn't get that medal, 'cause I know he wanted it real bad . . ."

Charlie arrived on Saturday, and accompanied by Larry, came to me and asked if he might see the medal. I took it out of the case and gave it to him, and he handled it lovingly; I could see in his eyes and on his face that he really did want the medal.

"How much?" Charlie asked. "Forty-five hundred," I replied.

"I'll go two thou'," he said. "Nope, forty-five or nothing."

"Jeeze, you're nuts!" (It wasn't a malicious statement.) "I know it."

"Will 'ya take twenty-five?" he pleaded. "Nope, I'll keep it for my price, not yours."

"You know," Charlie said, "you're lucky, 'cause I was gonna' bid fifteen hundred on that thing, but a coupl'a funny things happened . . ."

His 12-year old boy is on a kid's soccer team, which was playing for the world championship, or Miami bragging rights, on the Saturday afternoon that the auction closed around 9 p.m., or thereabouts. Charlie *intended* to telephone his bid after the game was over, about 4:30, he estimated. (PLENTY of time!)

At 4 p.m. the kid had a leg broken! Fortunately, or maybe it was mandatory, there was an ambulance at the playing field, and the medics hauled the kid and his mother to a hospital, with Charlie following in his car: he tried to follow the ambulance through a red light, but he did not make it. Bingo! Five busted ribs, scratches, bruises, etc., but nothing deadly; aching and swathed in Band Aids, Charlie went home on Monday. But NO bid! (Lucky me?)

Larry learned of both accidents, of course, but nothing more was said about the medal until he saw mine at the Clearwater show; he admitted that he *assumed* that Charlie had bid before that fateful Saturday, and that his bid had been too low.

Charlie is not a numismatic *student*; much less a researcher . . . he wanted the medal just to possess it for HIS bragging rights. Oh, it would have had a good life with Charlie; "uptown" surroundings, let out about twice a year to be viewed by an

admiring public, probably winning a blue ribbon frequently, but the medal would DIED without attention! Besides, Charlie exhibits to WIN, not to share.

Now, its picture, and what I have learned of its history, (most of which is an exasperating mystery,) will be viewed by collectors in the TAMS Journal when the article is finished, which should be before the end of this year.

Several years ago I was talking with a friend after a meeting of one of the historical societies of which I am a member; we were discussing photographing two so-called "Florida Plantation Tokens" owned by the society. A lady, known to my friend, was standing nearby and overheard our conversation; she walked over, excused herself for intruding, and asked our interest in the tokens. I told her all that I knew, including that they were made of pewter, most often thought to be tin.

"That's strange," she said, "for just *today* (my emphasis) I was reading some microfilm over at the University [of Florida] library, and I recall that there was mention of two Indians being caught by the Spaniards in 1692, (my emphasis, again), with some counterfeit *tin* money. Do you think there might be some connection between that incident and the society's tokens?"

I shivered with anticipation, barely able to reply, but managed a cool, "Yes, it's possible. Which films were you reading?" She told me that she did not recall their identification at that moment, but as she recorded all the films reviewed, she would write and give me their identification. Her word was good, for less than a week later I received a letter designating the films, and within three days I had positive prints of them.

I have written nothing about the tokens yet, and probably will not get to them until early next year. My point in relating the incident is the pure *luck* involved, working as a trigger to my curiosity. I *will* learn the full story if possible, write it, and share it with others.

I thoroughly enjoy researching . . . reaching for an understanding of what I am reading, hearing or seeing, and then trying to convey to others what I have learned; however, when I begin one of these quests, I seldom know what I am looking for, or what I am getting into.

Of all of the articles that I have written, excluding editorials and book reviews, all but three have been the direct result of chance, supplied from some other, unknown source. "Luck" has been the major determinant, triggering and encouraging that curiosity force, which is in all of us.

RAMBLINGS OF AN ACUTE BIBLIOMANIAC

Jeff Rock, NLG
San Diego, California

Most numismatic bibliomaniacs I know could also be called biblioamorists, that is, lovers of coin books. A biblioamorist is one who has gone past the point of merely collecting books, checking them off a want list and occasionally glancing through them during idle moments. He or she is at the point of actually loving the book itself. That slender spine, with the graceful curves of its raised boards! Who hasn't quivered with excitement running his fingers along a full-leather,

smooth joint backing? Just thinking about an English split-board binding can make one's heart throb!

Just like discovering all the little idiosyncracies about the person you love, there is a certain satisfaction to be had from running across obscure facts on books. Here, in no special order, are a few tidbits that I have run across in the past few years.

The word "signature" actually dates from pre-printing press times, when books were handwritten by scribes. Each scribe was required to sign the portion or portions of the book for which he was responsible. The book was signed with either his initials or his own unique symbol.

A signature is also called a gathering, a section or a quire.

Books were originally printed on sheets of paper that were large enough to hold many finished pages. They were printed in such a way that the finished sheet was folded and, when cut, the pages would fall into their proper numerical sequence.

Those mysterious dots on the center and/or right-hand corners of each signature on some of the 18th and 19th century books actually mark the first page of each signature when printed on large sheets. These dots now appear on the folded end of each signature.

There is no standard rule for the numbering of pages. Most preliminary material is done in lowercase Roman numerals, but this material is sometimes ignored in the pagination when the actual text starts off with "Page 1". Other books will take into account all of the preliminary matter and start the text off on "Page 9". Appendices are usually numbered as part of the main text, but, occasionally take up the lowercase Roman numerals used for the front matter.

The publication date can appear on either the title page, on the verso (left-hand side) of the title page, with the copyright information, or at the end of a preface or author's foreword.

After the French Revolution in 1792 some books printed in that century were dated, not in terms of the calendar year, but in terms of the age of the new republic. So, "An. XII" equals the twelfth year of the Republic of France, or the numismatically special year 1804.

"Book size" as used by cataloguers is actually a misnomer. Terms such as "Quarto" and "Octavo" originally referred, not to the size of the book, but to the number of times a sheet of printed paper had been folded to form each signature. The original meaning of the terms are as follows:

Broadside – a single, usually large piece of paper, printed on only one side.

Folio – the printed sheet was folded once to make 2 leaves (4 pages).

Quarto – 4to – 4° – sheets folded twice to make 4 leaves (8 pages). Now used to describe any book of around 9½ x 12 inches.

Octavo – 8vo – 8° – the printed sheet is folded to form 8 leaves (16 pages).

Now used to describe any book of around 6 x 9 inches.

Duodecimo – 12mo – 12° – an odd signature number, the printed sheet is folded to form 12 leaves (24 pages), but another 4 leaves (8 pages) must be cut off the sheet to arrive at that number! Now used to describe books of about 5 x 7½ inches.

Sextodecimo – 16mo – 16° — usually the same size printing sheets as used in the above, but, all 16 leaves (32 pages) are folded into a signature. Now the term applies to books approximately 4 x 6 inches in size.

Bon appetit!

The Saga of the West

Harry F. Campbell

South Salt Lake City, Utah

Western history would not be complete without the men and women who lived outside the law. Such a person was an outlaw named Matt Warner. A close friend of the famed outlaw 'Butch Cassidy', both these men were born in Utah and are now part of her folklore.

Matt Warner was born in the town of Ephraim, Utah Territory, on April 12th, 1864. He was christened Rufus Christiansen but in later years legally changed his name to Matthew Warner. As a young man living in the town of Levan, Utah Territory, Matt believed (falsely) that he had killed a young man like himself in a fight and fled to join others outside the law. He became a close friend of outlaw Butch Cassidy, and in 1886 both he and Cassidy lived for a while in a cabin once owned by famous coin minter John Parson, of Pike's Peak Colorado gold rush fame. The cabin was located in North Eastern Utah in an area known as 'Brown's Park', once a haven for fur trappers and also for outlaws.

For a short time, Warner was a member of the famed "Hole in the Wall Gang" and was known to have given such persons sanctuary on his horse ranch there. In 1889, Warner, Butch Cassidy, and another Utah outlaw by the name of Tom McCarty (McCarty was later the leader of the 'Blue Mountain Gang') robbed the bank at Telluride, Colorado.

Warner used different aliases in order to avoid detection; one was Erastus Christiansen (Ras); another was Ras Lewis. A fast and deadly shot with a six gun, Warner was arrested in May, 1896 in the Eastern city of Vernal on the charge of murder. Trouble over some mining claims resulted in the deaths of two men and the serious wounding of a third. He was found guilty of killing just one of the men, a Richard Stratton, and was sentenced to five years in prison. Matt was released from the Utah State Penitentiary on January 21, 1900, getting a year off for good behavior, at 36 years of age.

Shortly after, he was listed as the owner of a saloon in another Eastern town in Utah called Green River. It is known that he struck a token coin for use in his establishment. Leaving this town in January, 1901, he ran the Mint Saloon in the town of Price, Utah. It is believed that he came into town using the alias of Charles Christiansen. A short time later, he went by the name of Matt Warner when he felt it was safe to do so. He struck another two token coins during his career. Matt dealt in horses and in mining as well as saloons and was known to have had close ties with his former gang friends.

As a reformed man in later years, he served two terms as night Marshall for the city of Price and one term as the Justice of the Peace in Carbonville, Utah. Matt died during the evening of Wednesday, December 21st, 1938 at the age of 74.

The family of Matt Warner tell a story of a stranger who came to the house in Price, Utah to view the body of Matt Warner. He approached the coffin and touched Matt's hand. He was heard to say, "We rode for many years, old friend," and then bid Matt goodbye. When asked by Matt's daughter who he was, he smiled and lowered his sunglasses slightly saying, "Just think about it for a while and you will know who I am." The stranger then turned and boarded a nearby train and was never seen again. The family believe that the man was Matt's long time friend and outlaw, Butch Cassidy.

The Plagiarist's Corner

*Editor's Note: This is the "entirely new regular feature" promised in the "Preview of Coming Attractions" last issue. It will consist of fascinating and little-known tidbits of numismatic trivia gleaned from diverse sources. All such information will be brazenly stolen from the work of other authors (hence the title), but carefully attributed, so as to avoid a lawsuit. (Come to think of it, we could **use** the publicity of a lawsuit). At any rate, members are invited to send in their trivia, and to always remember the motto of this space, which was recently evoked in these pages by Carling Gresham:*

*When you steal from one author, it's plagiarism;
if you steal from many, it's reasearch.*

— Wilson Mizner, 1876-1933

The last known member of the original group of 304 persons who joined the ANA from its organization in 1891 until 1897, Arthur B. Stewart of Baltimore, Md., passed away on March 17, 1970, at the age of 89.

While attending boarding school as a lad of thirteen, Arthur's father bought him a small coin collection and enrolled him in the association on January 1, 1894 as number 183. Thus, his total tenure in the organization extended over a period of seventy-six years. This record, while not continuous, will undoubtedly stand for several generations.

After Stewart graduated from Stanford Law School, he started practice in Pennsylvania and later in Baltimore, MD. He became affiliated, as a counselor and later advanced to the presidency of a coke and coal firm. He became a director of a trust company in 1923 and later a savings bank. As a banker, his interests in numismatics returned and he renewed his affiliation in the ANA.

It was eventually discovered that Stewart was the same party who had joined in 1894 and the officers of the association restored his original number. He was one of the first to receive the 50-year Gold Membership Award when it was initiated in 1948. He became senior member of the ANA in 1963 upon the death of charter member, Hiram E. Deats. He sent special greetings to the association on its 75th anniversary convention in Chicago, August, 1966.

Arthur Stewart, still seeking numismatic knowledge until his demise, is survived by his wife and two daughters as well as a host of numismatic friends.

From Stack's Catalogue of the *Arthur B. Stewart Collection*, May 4-6, 1972.

Fixed Price List The Forgotten Part of Literature Collections

Remy Bourne
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Pick up any Numismatic Auction Catalog since 1852 with Numismatic Literature Sales contained within them, and what do you generally find? A specific listing of (1) Auction Catalogs, (2) Numismatic Books, (3) Periodicals and a grouping of (4) Miscellaneous Items bulked together for sale.

Up until the past 5-10 years, miscellaneous items were thrown away more often than not by Numismatic Literature Dealers as well as collectors. Those items that were saved were generally bulk catalogued at the end of the sales rather than individually described. What was this general miscellaneous category? Primarily it was Fixed Price Lists.

While a lot has been written in the past few years on the importance of collecting U.S. Auction Catalogs to trace Pedigree, Pricing Histories and Appearance Rates of individual coins, a few more important collections and individual rare coins have only been offered through Fixed Price Lists.

Fixed Price Lists are the forgotten area of Numismatic Literature collecting. Few people specialize in collecting just Fixed Price Lists. I am unaware of any other individuals who are making any concentrated effort as of today (1987) in collecting either the named or the obscure Dealer's Fixed Price Lists from 1850 to date.

Let's examine together some of the dealer's and the contents of their Fixed Price Lists to see if there may be a value or reason for you to acquire an interest in this forgotten part of literature collecting.

One of the earliest collectible Fixed Price Lists is by A.B. Sage & Co., June 1859. It is 24 pages, plus pink cover stock, that is 6" x 9" and contains 464 lots of: American Coins, Mint Pieces, Patterns, American Medals, Tokens, Foreign Medals, English Coins, State Bills & Numismatic Books.

A.B. Sage published his Fixed Price List No. 1 in February of 1859. It was 8 pages and I have not seen one. On the back cover of the June list an ad appears that shows both A.B. Sage's name and Henry Bogert's name. This would indicate that they were partners in a die sinking and printing business.

In 1860, the first of Norton's Literary Letter New Series appeared. I know of one complete set of Norton's letters, but have never seen one offered for sale in the past several years of research.

Another early Fixed Price List that is seldom, if ever, encountered in today's marketplace is one by Alfred S. Robinson of Hartford, Connecticut published July 1, 1861. This catalog contains the following: Colonial Coins, Washington Pieces, Silver Dollars, 1795 Half Cents including patterns, Proof sets, American Medals, Store Cards. Also listed is a table showing the number struck and the different metals of coins, medalets and tokens published by A.S. Robinson as well as remarks on the dies being destroyed, sold or broken.

This catalog also served as a dissolution of co-partnerships notice as of July 1, 1861 between David S. Robinson, Calvin Day, George P. Bissell and Alfred S. Robinson.

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There was also a 16 page Fixed Price List issued by A.S. Robinson on June 25th, 1861. No others were published after June, 1861.

In the 1860's W. Elliot Woodward published 3 or 4 single-page sheets listing catalogs, but I have not seen any offered for sale in recent times.

During the 1870's, John W. Haseltine published 4 large Fixed Price Lists. They were from July 1, 1872 to March 1, 1876. They are as follows: (1) 1872 & 1873, July 1, 1872, 32 pages (2) 1873 & 1874, July 1, 1873, 36 pages. (3) 1875, January 1, 1875, 56 pages. These lists contained essentially the same listings of material as A.S. Robinson above as well as Numismatic Literature, Foreign Coins and U.S. Paper Money.

N. Ponce DeLeon, publisher and printer at 40 & 42 Broadway, New York, produced a "Catalogue" of a large collection of Roman and Greek coins for sale at marked prices in 1877. "The collection was formed by a Cuban gentleman in a period of 16 years with a great number of the pieces catalogued coming from the famous collections of Lord Northwick Dupre', Capranesi, Gaillaro, Carcia de La Torre and others."

The collection apparently comprised 9,000 coins of which 7,000 were already classified for showing at N. Ponce DeLeon's office. This Fixed Price List was the first part consisting of 860 lots in 35 pages of coins of the Roman Republic. The contents were: Gold & Silver Coins of the Roman Families, Bronze Coins of the Roman Families, Gold, Silver and Bronze Coins struck in Campania.

The back cover shows a 2nd part "In Press" on gold and silver coins of the Roman Empire to be published along with a listing of 9 additional Fixed price Lists "In Preparation". I have never seen any of these offered to date.

At least one Fixed Price List by David Proskey was published in 1878, containing Silver Coinage of America and Foreign and Ancient Roman Time Periods in a 5¼" x 8½", 44 page format.

S.K. Harzfeld published 4 Fixed Price Lists. Two were issued in 1879; one was 48 pages and contained American, Foreign, Ancient and Modern Coins; medals, etc. The other list was published in November 1879. It offered coins and medals, etc. and contained 8 pages. List #2 was published July of 1880 and List #3 in May 1881. They were 10 and 16 pages respectively.

During the 1880's a steady stream of price list offerings flowed into the marketplace from not only the major dealers of the time, but also from obscure small dealers who did not grow into national prominence.

Two examples of the latter would be: A printed and typeset 4 page offering by G.T. McCombe of Lockport, N.Y., which was offered in 1881, followed by a 2 page printed handwritten revised price list offered in April 1881. This contained listings of silver and copper coins. From San Francisco, California, W.F. Greany offered his 5th edition catalog of coins, stamps and curios of 48 pages. This included a million-dollar offering of Confederate currency and fractional currency.

On or before December 25, 1882, Lyman H. Low mailed his 12 page catalog of modern coins, medals, tokens and siege pieces in copper, brass and lead. This sale and Low's 3rd, 4th, 6th and 10th sales are Fixed Price Lists and should not be confused with his auction sales. At least 10-12 Fixed Price Lists were sent out by Low during the 1882-1898 period. A good portion of these Fixed Prices Lists also contained

Numismatic Literature for sale.

March, 1885 witnessed the beginning of perhaps 150 Fixed Price Lists that spanned the era from 1885 to at least 1911 and beyond emitted by Charles Steigerwalt. At most, 120 were numbered or dated and 20 or more were undated and unnumbered. These unnumbered offerings may actually belong in the numbered area. Up until 1890, Steigerwalt's Fixed Price Lists were titled "Coins, Medals, Paper Money, Numismatic Books, etc." From 1890 on, the titles changed to a monetary amount, such as "\$8,000 Collection, \$15,000 Collection of U.S. & Foreign Coins, Paper Money, Medals, etc." Fixed Price List #33 of September, 1892 features Royal W. Hutchins Collection. Around 1904, the cover titles change again, mostly to read "Coins, Paper Money, etc."

S.H. & H. Chapman's frequently-encountered Fixed Price List of "Decorations and Medals for Valor in War" was published in November, 1889. It is in the same white glossy cover format as their catalogues. It is 20 pages and contains 186 lots.

A corrected and improved 64 page priced catalogue of United States, Colonial Coins and Fractional currency was sent out for 15 cents in 1889 by the New York Coin and Stamp Co.

Ed. Frossard started sending out a special list beginning in 1890. The earliest special list that I have is #3 dated 10-1-91. Ed. Frossard published at least 10 Fixed Price Lists for a 4 page special list #10 dated January 1894 is known.

Martin Gengerke's new 7th edition of U.S. Auction Sales has solved the mystery of H.E. Morey. Morey used his Fixed Price Lists and Auction Sales numbers consecutively. The first 20 numbers of H.E. Morey are Fixed Price Lists with #21 being the first auction sale, along with #24. There were Fixed Price List numbers 21-26 also issued. All these Fixed Price Lists were published from March, 1891 to October, 1897.

Mr. Morey was a thrifty individual. For example, on the cover of his catalog was printed "4th Annual Catalog of 1895". This title head was pasted over the title of his "3rd Annual Catalog of 1893". This re-use of his catalogs with new title updated occurs on most of his "Annual Catalogs".

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*Without words, without writing, and without books
there would be no history,
there could be no concept of humanity.*

Hermann Hesse
(1877-1962)

Research Information Wanted

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A Difference of Opinion

Q. David Bowers

Wolfeboro, New Hampshire

This story involves an incident which took place over 25 years ago. Key to the situation was a numismatic book.

At the time I lived in Vestal, New York, just a few miles from Johnson City, where Jim Ruddy and I engaged in the operation of the Empire Coin Company. Located in a three-story building at 252 Main Street, the structure was home to a business which extended to all areas of the globe.

The time was in the late 1950s, and among the most desirable numismatic books was *United States Experimental, Pattern, and Trial Pieces*, by Edgar H. Adams and William H. Woodin. Published by the American Numismatic Society in 1913, and subsequently reprinted by James Kelly, the book in either original or reprint form was sufficiently scarce that original copies were apt to sell for the best part of \$50, if indeed you could find one. Dr. J. Hewitt Judd's book with a nearly copycat title, *United States Pattern, Experimental and Trial Pieces*, was just a twinkle in the author's eye, or perhaps it was a stack of manuscript notes, but in any event it had not yet seen print. The Judd book was a member of a category which numismatic bibliophiles have seen all too often: a book which was announced at an early date, but then year after year passed without it actually achieving reality. Anyway, in the late 1950s patterns were a very active area of the market, but reference books concerning them were not easily obtained.

It was a blustery winter day when Jim Ruddy and I set out by car to visit a retired manufacturer who lived in Penn Yan, in Upstate New York's Finger Lakes district. What we anticipated to be a pleasant journey of a couple hours' duration turned out to be a sliding, skidding, danger-fraught trip through a driving blizzard! Finally we arrived, fortunately without mishap, to keep our appointment, even if an hour or so late.

We were greeted by a pleasant, older gentleman who had been a numismatist for many years and who in the process had built a set of Proof Indian cents and a set of Proof Liberty Head nickels, and had gathered a number of other various and sundry pieces. The two sets were housed in small-size "National" albums sold by Wayte Raymond.

While Jim conversed with the owner, I was busy with my magnifying glass looking at the various pieces. After an hour or so of examination and figuring, I came up with what I thought was a generous offer: \$2,750.

I had built some "room" into my offer, so that if it had been necessary I could have paid perhaps a hundred dollars more. However, then, as now, I liked to fire my best shot at the beginning — and not come up with a low offer that had to be negotiated back and forth.

While I was waiting for an answer to my proposal, I kept eyeing the copy of the Adams-Woodin pattern book on a nearby shelf. I had expressed an interest in buying it and had asked for a price, but was told that it wasn't for sale. I already possessed a copy, so I didn't need one for my own account, but I knew of a dozen or two numismatists who did. I probably would have paid \$50 for a copy, just to satisfy a customer.

"I am sorry, but your offer of \$2,750 is not acceptable. I am sorry that you and Mr. Ruddy had to make the long trip here on such a terrible day, but I simply cannot sell for that price," the owner of the coins informed me.

Somewhat crestfallen, I contemplated that my offer was probably far short of the mark, and that the owner wanted \$5,000, \$10,000, or even more. It wasn't all that unusual to have such a thing occur, nor is it unusual today. Time and time again, someone owning coins they had purchased earlier, and who was out of touch with the current market, was very optimistic concerning what their coins were worth.

Seeking to salvage at least something out of the deal, I again brought up the subject of the Adams-Woodin book, perhaps feeling that out of compassion he would sell it to me, even if he kept the coin collection.

"I will make this proposal, Mr. Bowers," he replied. "Give me \$2,775 and we can do business — you can buy the collection, and I will throw in the book."

With mock seriousness, I contemplated the situation for a moment, then accepted. No time was lost in writing out a check, and then a few minutes later Jim Ruddy and I were on our way back to Johnson City, through the tail-end of the snow storm.

The next day, at the office, I marked up the albums, putting notations near each opening as to the condition and price of the various coins, so that afterward someone on our staff could transfer them to individual envelopes. No one used numbers in connection with Indian cents or Liberty nickels back then, and had anyone suggested it, the idea would have been dismissed as the wildest fiction. (My, how things have changed!) However, a particularly nice Proof was apt to be called "choice" or "gem."

In looking at the back of a page of Proof Liberty nickels, I noted that the reverse of one coin was in the album upside-down — that is, it was facing differently from the other Proofs in the album. I naturally assumed that the coin had been put in the album upside-down, and that when I studied the front of the album I would find that the obverse of this particular coin was also upside-down. It seemed peculiar that I hadn't noticed this when I looked at the front of the album page earlier.

I flipped the page over, only to find that all of the Liberty nickels had their obverses facing the same direction! Puzzled, I took the curious coin out, to find that it was indeed different. The reverse die was misaligned. Ordinarily on American coins, the obverse and reverse are 180° apart. On this particular piece, both were facing in the same direction, like a medal. I made a note of the variety, and some time later mentioned it in print. Since that time, the 1903 Proof Liberty nickel with inverted reverse has been studied in more detail, and it is apparent that the issue is several times rarer than the normal alignment style.

The collection was subsequently sold, as was the Adams-Woodin book, leaving me with just the memories of a snowy winter day and the discovery of a new die variety.

Of course, in today's market the idea of paying \$2,750 for a complete set of Proof Indian cents, a complete set of Proof Liberty nickels, and a bunch of other coins besides seems to be a remote fantasy, which perhaps it is. Today, a nice Proof 1877 Indian cent, or a nice Proof 1885 Liberty nickel would each bring that price or more!

To refresh my memory, I looked in *Empire Topics*, issue No. 2, which was published in the autumn of 1958. We were selling Proof Indian cents at the following

prices: 1885 \$25, 1887 \$12, 1888 \$10, and 1889 \$11, and Proof Liberty Head nickels at the following prices: 1889 \$14 and 1898 \$17.50. Elsewhere in the catalogue, one of the rarest of all Shield nickels, the 1877 Proof, was listed for \$250. An 1857 Choice Proof Small Date large cent, worth the best part of \$5,000 today, was described as "a good buy for \$165." Proof trade dollars, now worth \$5,000 or more each, could be had for \$50 to \$67.50 each, Uncirculated double eagles, dates of my choice, cost \$48.75 each, and Proof half dollars in the Barber series could be bought for \$50 apiece. Actually, as cheap as these prices may seem today, in 1958 they were high in relation to what they were five or six years earlier, for I remember when Proof Barber halves were \$10 each! Of course, that's nothing compared to the experience of B. Max Mehl, who when returning from a visit to a Chapman auction in Philadelphia, found himself on a train back to Fort Worth, Texas, without an adequate supply of pocket change. To pay for lunch, he spent a Proof Barber half dollar at face value! This was in the early 1920s, so I suppose the Proof Barber half dollar was worth about 65¢. Big deal!

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FASCINATING WORLD OF NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

George Frederick Kolbe
Crestline, California

Continued from the last issue . . .

Where did this all start? As most of you know, Johann Gutenberg began printing from movable type in the 1450's and the modern printed book came into existence. Printed numismatic books followed shortly thereafter. But even before the invention of printing there were books written discussing numismatic topics. In *De Regimine Principis*, Saint Thomas Aquinas discusses the function and evolution of money. Nicolas Oresme, who lived from 1320 to 1382, discussed numismatics in his writings. One of the most notable coin collectors of the early Renaissance was the great Florentine Francesco Petrarca, or Petrarch, who is often called "the first modern man." His writings often allude to his love of coins, and Elvira Clain-Stefanelli has stated: "Petrarch's broad outlook and scholarly approach conferred upon numismatics the dignity of a real science." Angelo Ambrogini Poliziano or Politian published in 1489 his *Miscellaneorum Centuriae Primae*. Among other things he discussed ancient coin images and he is considered by John Pinkerton to have been the first writer who adduced ancient coins as vouchers of ancient orthography and customs. Although Poliziano's observations are important, so relatively little of his *Miscellanea* is devoted to coins and medals that it would inappropriate to consider it the first printed numismatic book. That honor is usually accorded the French scholar Guillaume Budé. In 1514 he published *De asse et partibus eius . . .* based on his collection of Greek and Roman coins. Culminating the careful research of nine years, it became the definitive textbook on Roman coinage and metrology. By 1550 it had been reprinted in sixteen editions.

Three years after Budé's pioneering effort, in 1517, the first substantially illustrated numismatic book, *Illustrium Imagines*, was published. Though often attributed to Andrea Fulvio, it appears that the author was actually Bishop Jac.

Sadoletto. It is a beautiful and rare book. Most leaves are illustrated with superb white-on-black woodcut medallion portraits printed within ornate foliate and architectural borders. The format was imitated and several similar works appeared shortly thereafter. Recently, a superb copy of this book sold for \$15,000 in a German book auction.

The quality of scholarship in this period varies widely. Guillaume Rouille's *Promptuarium*, for example, first published in 1553, included illustrations of non-existent coins, and he often altered coin legends to fit his own erroneous conclusions. Conversely, a number of quite important books also appeared. In the mid-1500's Hubert Goltz published an attractive series of seven folio volumes on Roman coins which became the standard work for over two centuries. One of the most beautiful works in this era, Antoine Le Pois's *Discourse on Medals*, was published in Paris in 1579. The plates were engraved by Pierre Woeriot and are among the finest of any numismatic plates published in the sixteenth century. Other important works include Wolfgang Lazius's 1558 work on ancient coins, Fulvio Orsini's 1570 work, also on ancients, and Adolph Occo's 1579 landmark work on ancient Roman coins. In Italy Aeneas Vico was writing a series of charmingly illustrated works, and in Spain Antonio Agustin, the father of Spanish numismatics, was at his peak. One sixteenth century work written by Don Alfonso, Bishop of Evora, and the first work on Portuguese numismatics, unfortunately has not survived. We know of its existence only from contemporary references.

By the mid-1600's so many numismatic books had been published that Philippe Labbé felt it necessary to issue his *Bibliotheca Nummaria*, published in Paris in 1664. His is the first significant numismatic bibliography. In 1693 Burcard Gotthelf Struve published an expanded bibliography in Jena. throughout the 1700's the body of numismatic literature continued growing, and improved bibliographies appeared in 1718, 1729 and 1760. In 1801 the best, and last, general numismatic bibliography appeared, written by J. G. Lipsius. In 1866 J. Leitzmann issued a supplement to Lipsius covering the numismatic publications issued in the intervening years. Lipsius and Leitzmann listed well under 10,000 numismatic works so you can see that, even allowing for unreported titles, there has been an explosion in the number of numismatic publications in the last century or so.

In the mid-1800's, numismatic societies started to spring up all over Europe. By the 1860's, collectors in the United States had also begun to organize numismatic societies. To digress for a moment, it is usually thought that the traditional explanation for the rise in the popularity of coin collecting in America during the late 1850's is that people became interested when large cents were discontinued in 1857. There is much truth to this statement, and the many attempts at the time to form complete date sets of cents by withdrawing them from circulation had a profound effect on the course of American coin collecting. Nonetheless, I think it would be wrong to assume that the dominant interest of U. S. numismatists at the time was their coinage. If one refers to the publications of the time — the periodicals and the auction catalogues — one will find tremendous interest in ancient coins and in foreign crowns and gold coins. I believe American numismatists were profoundly affected at the time by the explosion of interest in numismatics which was then taking place in Europe.

Returning to the main topic, the European numismatic societies, almost without exception, began at or near the time of their inception to issue periodical publications.

In England, the Numismatic Society, later the Royal Numismatic Society, began publication of the *Numismatic Chronicle* in 1838 and it is still being published today. Without a doubt, it is the most important numismatic periodical ever published in English, perhaps in any language. In France, publication of *Revue Numismatique* began in 1836 and it too is still being published. Other major numismatic periodicals in Germany, Italy, Belgium and elsewhere also began publication around this time. In the United States, the *American Journal of Numismatics* started in 1866 and *The Numismatist* began publication in 1888.

These publications became sounding boards for new ideas and research and literally thousands of numismatic works first saw publication in their pages, either as finished works or, perhaps more often as preliminary research which later developed into major references. In 1885 Stanley Lane-Poole was able to state, with accuracy, that "to be a great general numismatist is beyond the powers of one man."

To satisfy the growing interest in numismatics, new coin firms were being formed throughout Europe and in America. The earliest known coin auction had taken place in Leyden toward the end of the sixteenth century when the collection of a French gentleman went under the hammer in 1598. Coin auctions were regular occurrences during the 18th and early 19th century, but the mid-to late-19th century saw auction sales become a primary method of selling coins. Fixed price lists also proliferated. Many of these auction sales and, to a lesser extent, fixed price lists featured important, expertly catalogued collections and many became standard reference works in their own right.

In the twentieth century, particularly since World War II, these trends have accelerated. Organizations devoted to many unusual numismatic specialties have been formed. To get an idea of their diversity, you have only to look through this year's A.N.A. Program. Sometimes their names mystify the uninitiated. Do the "Elongated Collectors" restrict their membership to tall numismatists? Are members of the "Bust Half Nut Club" actually half-crazed voyeurs? Are the "Early American Coppers" a venerable law enforcement group?

We will know next time!

Here's Looking Up Your Old Address Dept.

Editor's Note: One of our members, who wishes to remain nameless, has submitted this matching exercise for our edification and entertainment. Your editor, after having tried it, concludes that the author's anonymity is essential in order to avoid a flood of letters and calls begging for the answers! However, our contributor has arranged the following challenge: the First person to send your editor a list of correct answers — we are speaking of 100% correct now — will be awarded, courtesy of Past President George, a copy of John Adams' United States Numismatic Literature, Vol. I. So, ladies and gentlemen, its tough, but it's worth it. Good luck!

The following is a little "match game": the left hand column contain the names of some major — and a few minor — numismatists, auction cataloguers, numismatic authors, etc., in the 1870's and 1880's; the right hand column contains a series of addresses, including both street and city/state. The left hand column names are numbered; the right hand column addresses have a blank in front of each entry. Your task is to select the proper person to go with each address, and insert the person's number in the appropriate blank on the address column. As some of these people changed addresses during the period involved, there are more addresses than people.

but every address is connected with one of the people in the list.

— A. Scurrilous Rumor

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. E. J. Attinelli | _____ 31 Exchange Street, Boston |
| 2. Jeremiah Colburn | _____ 1675 3rd Avenue, NYC |
| 3. J. W. Haseltine | _____ 113 Canal Street, NYC |
| 4. Ed Cogan | _____ 56 9th Ave., NYC |
| 5. J. Colvin Randall | _____ 409 State Street, Brooklyn, NY |
| 6. C. H. Bechtel | _____ 258 Dudley Street, Boston |
| 7. David Proskey | _____ 533 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia |
| 8. W. H. Strobbridge | _____ Corner Broadway & Fulton, NYC |
| 9. S. K. Harzfeld | _____ 622 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia |
| 10. H. G. Sampson | _____ 177 2nd Ave., NYC |
| 11. Isaac F. Wood | _____ 235 Washington Street, Boston |
| 12. Ed Maris | _____ 194 Washington Street, NYC |
| 13. W. Elliott Woodward | _____ 864 Madison Ave., NYC |
| 14. T. F. Nealis | _____ 114 South 17th Street, Philadelphia |
| 15. Charles H. Wright | _____ 192 Broadway, NYC |
| 16. Bangs & Co. | _____ 241 E. 57th Street, NYC |
| 17. S.H. & H. Chapman | _____ 71 Devonshire Street, Boston |
| 18. John C. Schayer | _____ No. 1 Gates Ave., Brooklyn, NY |
| 19. Lorin G. Parmelee | _____ 1225 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia |
| 20. G. L. Feuarent | _____ 30 Lafayette Place, NYC |
| 21. Ebenezer L. Mason | _____ 656 Broadway, NYC |
| 22. George H. Lovett | _____ 1905 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia |
| 23. A. M. Smith | _____ 15 Chester Park, Boston |
| 24. William P. Brown | _____ 2043 Tower Street, Philadelphia |
| 25. George W. Cogan | _____ 61 Bethune Street, NYC |
| 26. M. F. Blasy | _____ South Salem, NY |
| 27. H. P. Smith | _____ 143 North 10th Street, Philadelphia |
| 28. Henry Ahlborn | _____ 91 Bushwick Ave., Brooklyn, NY |
| 29. J. N. T. Levick | _____ 269 West 52nd Street, NYC |
| 30. A. Wuesthoff | _____ 32 North 13th Street, Philadelphia |
| 31. William Poillon | _____ 2009 Arch Street, Philadelphia |
| 32. Richard Hoe Lawrence | _____ 145 Nassau Street, NYC |
| 33. Lyman Low | _____ 122 South 5th Street, Philadelphia |
| | _____ 64 William Street, NYC |
| | _____ 656 Franklin Street, Philadelphia |
| | _____ 31 Broad Street, NYC |
| | _____ 79 Nassau Street, NYC |
| | _____ 72 North 4th Street, Philadelphia |
| | _____ 1713 Park Ave., Philadelphia |
| | _____ 31 Stirling Place, Brooklyn |
| | _____ 739 Broadway, NYC |
| | _____ 18 Somerset Street, Boston |
| | _____ 344 Fulton Street, Brooklyn |
| | _____ 838 Broadway, NYC |

John Reich Journal

Editor's note: Fellow N.B.S. member David J. Davis is the editor of the John Reich Journal, the publication of the John Reich Collector's Society. He has sent us Vol. I, nos. 2 & 3 for review in The Asylum. Our critique follows.

The great rule of reviewing is to never, never be uncritical. Unqualified praise brands a reviewer as a rube, a naif, a bimbo. If you blast 'em, on the other hand, you seem wordly, sophisticated, mature. Ah, well, to hell with the great rule of reviewing. I can't find anything to complain about in this Journal. You want attractive? It has a glossy cover featuring the obverse of a Draped Bust, Small Eagle Reverse 1796 Half. You want lots of reading? How does 32 tightly-packed pages grab you? You want excellent authors? They have Jules Reiver, Maurice Rosen, Bill Fivaz and Doug Winter. We could go on, but suffice it to say that if you collect the early mint emissions, and you do not subscribe, you are cheating yourself. The John Reich Collector's Society can be reached at P. O. Box 205, Ypsilanti, Michigan, 48197.

Bolivian Proclamation Coinage by LTC Davis Burnett, Jr. Virginia, Minnesota: Latin American Press, 1987.

One of the wonders of modern numismatics is that virtually any specialized area has a specialized reference that is really quite credible. From Australia's pattern coinage to the Zerbe Dollar, and including everything in between, there is a monograph, article or at least a catalogue listing that enlightens the reader. Count Bolivian proclamation coins as one such reference.

Mr. Burnett has succeeded in making this slim volume (86pp) a practical work of reference. His listing is chronological, his "BRN" numbering system is clear, the book is profusely illustrated with half-tones and the author has included a glossary, a chronology and an extensive bibliography to aid researchers. This book, in conjunction with Richard Doty's "The Bolivian Monetary Medal" is Vol. I, No. 1 of the now-funct *New England Journal of Numismatics*, should provide a good picture of Bolivian commemorative/commercial coinage.

One slight quibble — and it is the same one I have with every *Handbook of U.S. Coins* published since 1983 — the book is perfect bound. Cost constraints probably dictated that, but in the best of all possible worlds, no reference books would be perfect bound, for their spines simply cannot take the strain of repeated use.

Joel J. Orosz

Kalamazoo, Michigan

Editor's note: Thanks to member Dale Seppa for providing the review copy.

Numismatics – Witness to History. Articles by members of the IAPN to commemorate its 35th anniversary. Edited by Richard Margolis and Hans Voegtle. 1986. 230 pages, 48 plates. Cloth 22 x 28.5cm. Available from A. G. van der Dussen, Hondstraat 5, NL-6211 HW Maastricht, Netherlands. 100 Swiss francs (± \$65) plus postage.

Among the International Association of Professional Numismatists' (IAPN) many good works is an on-going publications program which has concentrated on

scholarly works, surveys of numismatic research, and International Numismatic Commission Congress reports and proceedings. The latter are particularly valuable, for each contains dozens of abstracts of papers presented at the INC's Congress reported on.

The newly issued Publication No. 8 of the IAPN, a collection of 28 essays and monographs by IAPN members, follows in much the same tradition. The writers address a very broad range of themes, both chronologically and methodologically. Although there was nothing like a positive effort on the collective authors' part to provide a balanced coverage, in a general way this is in fact what resulted. Serge Boutin's classification of the archaic two-dolphin staters of the Aegean leads the parade, and the late Ted Uhl concludes it with a note on the little-known World War II military currency issue used in Iceland.

Articles are presented usually in the writer's mother tongue, so English, French, German, Italian and Spanish are represented. Generally, some fairly finite aspect is treated, e.g. the discovery of a new major variety or type, or a fiscal policy or monetary development which is reflected in the coinage involved. A few articles are more discursive.

The collection is for the most part scholarly in level, and its value is more as a permanent reference work than as casual reading. Libraries with numismatic holdings will find it essential, and a number of thoughtful dealers and collectors will find it both interesting and, in the longer run, decidedly worthwhile having.

Randolph Zander
Alexandria, Virginia

The Last Word

The letter from Reinhold Jordan printed elsewhere in this issue raises two points, with one of which your editor agrees wholeheartedly, and with the other, not at all. Since Reinhold is a thoughtful and valued member of the N.B.S., his opinions deserve careful consideration.

First, the area of agreement. Reinhold is correct, we need more contributions that cover the spectrum of non-U.S. and historical numismatic literature. Reinhold himself, and George Kolbe have made admirable efforts in this line since our tenure began in early 1986, but they have been the only ones. If we aspire to be a world-class organization, we need more submissions that cover areas other than U.S. literature after 1858. We do not mean to denigrate American literature — it is where our own interests lie — but it is not enough. So let's sharpen those pencils and get to work. After all, we are only asking for the world!

We must respectfully differ with Reinhold's dismay that we publish some articles that are not about numismatic literature *per se*. We have deliberately decided not to limit our offerings to items that deal exclusively with numismatic publications. We see *The Asylum* as a journal interested in *numismatics* broadly defined, with a specific interest in the literature. On that theory, we published Dave Bowers' article "Revisiting the Early 1950's" because it was a first-hand account of numismatic history. Similarly, Carling Gresham's "Research" piece was published because it was about the philosophy of collecting, and Harry Campbell's "Manhunt" was accepted because it provided a glimpse of the rugged life of the miners who supplied

the mint's copper. It seems to us that all of this, while it may not be *about* numismatic literature as such, in fact *is* numismatic literature, and thus belongs in our journal.

This does not mean that we accept anything and everything. There *must* be a numismatic connection or (as Lee Iaccoca would say) it doesn't go in — period.

This is the editor's position, but the Society's journal should reflect *your* wishes, not our's. Although it probably is not a smart move to kick up another controversy before the great name debate is settled, here goes; let us know how you feel: should *The Asylum* be a journal exclusively devoted to numismatic literature, or should some collateral areas be included from time to time? If you have an opinion, please let us know — after all, *vox bibliomaniac - vox Dei*.

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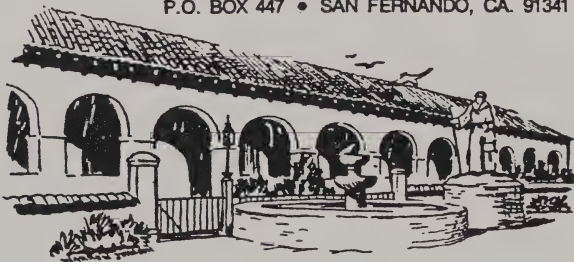
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— Euphues

THE ASYLUM

Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Volume V, No. 4

Winter, 1987

Inside:

GEORGE FREDERICK KOLBE concludes his introductions.
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and the Maniacs Prevail! pages 5-6

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ANNOUNCING

**The Auction Sale of the
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The Paramount Corporation was formed in 1966 from the merger of World Numismatiques (James Kelly, Englewood, Ohio) and Empire Coin Company (Q. David Bowers and James F. Ruddy, Johnson City, NY). The present offering includes books from Kelly's personal library, the Empire research library and additional titles acquired by Paramount since 1966.

References on world coinage, paper money, money and banking, 20th century United States and European auction sale catalogs and periodicals are all represented in this well rounded library.

If you are not on my mailing list, you should be. Catalogs free on request to NBS members.

**John F. Bergman
4223 Iroquois Avenue
Lakewood, California 90713**

From the President

Am I happy to be elected President of the N.B.S.? Is rollerskating the world's greatest sport? You bet I am! It's an honor to be elected, and I thank you.

Before I say anything else, I want to thank George Kolbe for the great job he turned in as President. You're a tough act to follow, George!

My goal for the upcoming year is to say as little as possible and let our talented authors carry the ball. So let's all enjoy *The Asylum*; after all, rollerskating is the world's greatest sport, but collecting numismatic literature is the world's greatest hobby!

— Armand Champa

From the Editor

And they said it couldn't be done! For the first time in history, we have published four separate issues of *The Asylum* in one calendar year. The scoreboard is as follows: 1980, 2 numbers; 1981, 1 number; 1982, 1 number; 1983, 1 number; 1984, 2 numbers; 1985, 3 numbers; 1986, 3 numbers; 1987, 4 numbers. Meanwhile, there is more good news: the recent dues increase means that all four of 1988's issues will be 32-pagers. Thus endeth, after this number, the anorexic 16-page issues that financial stringency dictated and that everyone hated. Many thanks to all of our patient members, who will at last be getting everything for which they have been paying.

Happy holidays to all loyal bibliomaniacs, with special thanks to all of our authors, reviewers, and other contributors. Once again, your editor wants everyone to know how much we owe to Nils Peterson, whose alchemy transmutes base elements into *The Asylum* four times every year. God bless us every one!

Deadlines for 1988 submissions:

Summer issue: May 1

Autumn issue: August 1

Winter issue: October 15

Letters to the Editor

I have just recently received the Summer, 1987 issue of *The Aylum*. This is the second issue of the publication that I have received, and I must say that I am truly disappointed in them.

The magazines appear to be so much fluff, with little material of substance. In the latest issue, the only "articles" were remembrances of Mr. Kolbe, adapted from a speech he gave in 1986, and 4 short paragraphs by Mr. Gresham. I consider myself to be reasonably intelligent, but I honestly have no idea what point Mr. Gresham was trying to make in his "article".

In President Kolbe's "Farewell Message" he reviews the purpose of NBS as to "... enlighten, inform, and entertain." In my opinion, neither of the two issues I have received as a member have come anywhere close to achieving this purpose. The issues seem to be a medium for a small group of persons to swap reminiscences and stories of interest to only that small group.

I was under the impression when I join that the magazine would contain some useful information for me, a book collector. My collecting interests are quite narrow, limited to bank histories, certain government reports, and other books dealing with banking and currency. One of the members, Mr. Pete Smith, might be reminded that not ALL of the members of the NBS collect "coin books"; he (I hope) sarcastically proposed changing the society name to "Coin Book Club".

In one way, Mr. Smith's comment points out the serious flaw in *The Asylum*: There is so darn little useful information of any kind in its pages that a casual reader would have virtually no idea what the members collect, how books are valued, what books or other publications are worth reading, etc. As a member of NBS I have been waiting to see what I would gain by membership, and I am truly disappointed.

This magazine could provide a great deal of information to the NBS members, such as how to buy books, how to sell books, how to value books, who among our members would be interested in a book that I have that I personally don't need, and so on. The only persons I know of that deal in numismatic books are your advertisers and a couple of others. However, I have purchased material from Mr. Kolbe, Mr. Bergman, and Mr. Wilson — but only through their auctions. Are there ANY other dealers besides Walt Wiegand and Charles Davis who offer fixed price lists?

I'm the secretary of the Society of Paper Money Collectors. As you may be aware, we publish a bimonthly journal. The articles contained in our journals are submitted by our members, who receive no monetary compensation for them. I'm aware that the same situation exists with *The Asylum* - you can only print what is submitted to you. So that I won't be considered a do-nothing complainer, I will tell you that I am working on two book reviews that I plan to submit for your consideration. However, since my book collection is secondary to paper money as my hobby, I must confess that it will be at least a month before you receive them.

I do hope that some other members will rise up from their laurels and contribute some meaningful material to this publication; nothing personal, but I'm tired of reading tripe.

Bob Cochran
Florissant, Missouri

P.S. I didn't keep the last issue of the magazine, because it wasn't worth it, in my opinion. However, it would be nice to see the Editor's name and address published in each and every issue, so that folks like me would know where to send letters AND articles . . .

Editor's Note: Under normal conditions, I stick to the editorial "we," and keep my replies to letters as brief as possible. This letter, however, raises such serious issues that I feel compelled to answer at length in the first person.

Any editor who maintains that a journal cannot be improved is kidding himself. The Asylum is no exception. If it were written by professional authors, and put together by a professional editor, it would of course be better than it is. I, too, would like to see a greater variety of subjects treated in our pages.

I strenuously disagree, however, with Mr. Cochran's blanket dismissal of all of the writing in the first two issues of 1987 as "fluff" and "tripe". I am particularly proud — and I don't care who knows it — of the articles by Messrs. Manville (a tour-de-force of British numismatics) and Bowers (a first-hand account of American numismatic history) that appeared in the Spring number.

Mr. Cochran denigrates the Summer issue's Kolbe article as "remembrances" and the Gresham piece as pointless. Had he waited for the Autumn issue, he would have discovered that the Kolbe "remembrances" became a first-rate history of numismatic literature, while the "pointless" Gresham article developed into cogent reflections on the philosophy of collecting.

As to Mr. Cochran's complaint about the missing information page in the Summer issue, I explained in "From the Editor" in the Spring issue that when we were forced to use the skimpy sixteen page format, I dropped the information page to squeeze a little more copy out of the issue (as I have done again in this number).

I do applaud Mr. Cochran's determination not to be a "do-nothing complainer." I will be grateful for the book review on which he is working. I would be even more

grateful to receive an article or two on a subject(s) that he feels we are ignoring. So that he will know where to send them, here is my name and address:

Joel J. Orosz
4300 Old Field Trail
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Mr. Cocirran, should you choose to resign your membership, I do not wish you to feel that you were ripped off. If you continue to feel that The Asylum is better suited to the garbage than your library, kindly drop me a note to that effect and I will personally refund the \$7.50 you paid for your membership.

So, it's up to you. As for me, I hope you choose to stay in fold, and help us to make The Asylum the best that it can be.

To the Editor:

I am glad to see that Dave Bowers will write another article for the next issue. Now there is an experienced writer. If we can continue his authorship, maybe a few more folks will sign up.

Do you think you could persuade him to write an article about the "Rare Coin Review" and all its predecessors? This, of course, would include *Bowers Review*, *Empire Review*, *Empire Topics*, etc. I would guess he could shed some light on how they were produced, rarities of individual issues, best issues, most informative issues, etc., etc. Dave could add much information about this series.

Bob Yuell
Plainsboro, New Jersey

Editor's Note: How about it, Dave?

To the Editor:

The comments submitted by Charles Davis also in the last issue (Spring 1987) certainly focused on my previously stated concerns. His discussion of the economics of PRL's (presence/absence relative to a given catalogue) is on target and well taken. However, the comparison of Kolbe's Lee Sale Catalogue to average Stacks auctions is a bit forced. Mr. Davis well knows that most numismatic literature auction catalogues are nowhere near as elaborate as Kolbe's Lee, and in fact, are most of the time a reasonable reflection of the income the dealer anticipates. We should all be grateful for Kolbe's efforts. His work often establishes benchmarks of achievement. Recent catalogues issued by other booksellers attest to this.

Mr. Davis offers excellent advice on preparing for the mail bid wars. He overlooks, however, the fact that you are better armed with Kolbe, Wilson and Katen if you have the PRL's versus just the dealer estimates.

Lastly, I agree with Mr. Davis that the NBS does not want to put itself in the position of an ANACS. That was not my suggestion. I'm not looking for an organization to certify the conditions of my books according to a 70 point grading scale. What I'm looking for is some support when the following takes place (a true story). I was the successful bidder on a hard cover book that was listed as "about fine condition". What I got was in a plastic bag. Not for protection, but because that was the only way to hold it all together. I don't think my problem here had anything to do with arguing fine points of condition. The book had been grossly mis-represented.

The learning process never ends. I hope membership in NBS increases. But if it doesn't, I'll gladly pay increased dues. The NBS, by whatever name, is a valued part of my collecting avocation.

Leo J. Guibault, Jr.
New Orleans, Louisiana

To the Editor:

First let me state that I feel that you are doing an excellent job as editor. I look forward to receiving each new copy of *The Asylum*, and I am personally willing to pay ANY dues increase that may be necessary in order to continue the quality of our publication.

Please continue to keep up the good work, and thank you for the excellent publication.

Raymond L. Bisordi
Burbank, California

N.B.S. Meets, Board Meets, and the Maniacs Prevail!

Jeff Rock, NLG
NBS Secretary-Treasurer
San Diego, California

The place: Room 265 in the maze called the Georgia World Congress Center. The time: 8:00 p.m. The scene: thousands of crazed individuals, screaming at the tops of their lungs, clawing at each other's throats, pushing and shoving. The reason: limited seating at the 1987 general meeting of the N.B.S.

O.K., so perhaps there wasn't a teeming crowd of people, but there was a large number of dedicated bibliomanics in attendance that Wednesday evening.

Ruthann Brettel, executive director of the A.N.A. made a brief appearance and presented a welcome on behalf of that organization.

President George Kolbe welcomed those in attendance and introduced the program. Wasting no time, he introduced the new officers and promptly called upon incoming president Armand Champa to preside. Armand announced that the results of our straw poll regarding name changes was inconclusive. The fifty or so people in attendance represented an interesting cross-section of the collecting hobby.

John J. Ford was one of the main speakers for the evening. He gave a fascinating account of the elaborate measures he has taken to insure the safety of his library, including an inert-gas fire-suppression system using halon. President Armand was the other main speaker and set the whole pack drooling with a slide/lecture on his magnificent library.

It was both an honor and a privilege to watch the presentation of a special award, recognizing the achievements of a man who has worked in the hobby before it ever really was one, a man who for a little over forty years promoted numismatic literature and held over sixty sales, many of them exclusively literature. Although the award was a surprise, the feelings were not, and everyone in attendance knew that no other person so truly deserved to be named Honorary Chairman for life than Frank Katzen.

Following the presentation of that award, the Armand Champa Award for the best article to appear in *The Asylum* was presented. Again, it came as no surprise that the winner was Carling Gresham for his article on José Medina.

The entertainment for the evening was provided by Armand Champa, who presented a slide show and discussion about some of the volumes in his numismatic library. So enjoyable were the presentations and festivities of the evening, few people noticed it was after 1:00 a.m. when adjournment was called.

The 1987 board meeting came all too soon the next morning. Present were

Armand Champa, incoming president; George Kolbe, outgoing president and new board member; John Bergman, board member; Carling Gresham, board member; Doug Winters, special guest; and yours truly, secretary/treasurer and coffee gulper.

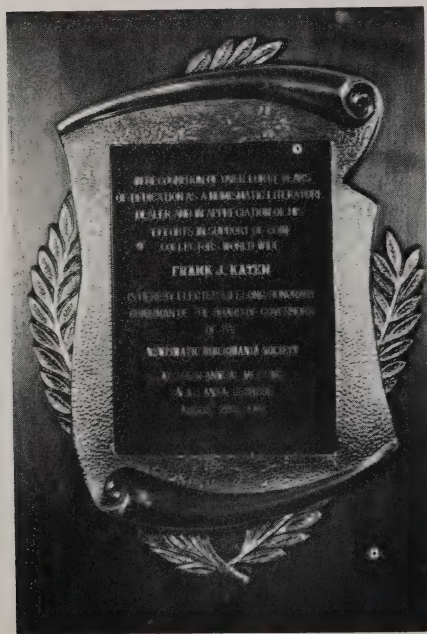
After breakfast, the first topic of discussion was that four-letter word, DUES. *The Asylum* — for the first time in its seven-year existence — has been issued on a regular basis. Because of the ever-rising costs of printing and mailing 32-page issues, the board voted 4-1 to raise the dues to \$15 per year. It was felt that this increase would be large enough to cover all of the expected cost increases, but still small enough that very few members would be forced to drop their memberships because of it.

In abstentia, Jack Collins, co-founder of the Society presented a proposal that the Society form a Code of Ethics and define arbitration procedures which the Society could use. Armand Champa proposed that the matter be referred to an attorney, which John Bergman will oversee, and the matter was tabled. Jack was asked by the board to submit an article to *The Asylum* so that his views could be brought before the general membership.

The issue of name changes was discussed and for the record, the name Numismatic Book Society of America for the organization, and the title *The Numismatic Bookshelf* for the journal were presented at the meeting. The final determination will be made by the membership.

FLASH! FLASH! The votes have been tallied, and there can now be no doubt about the great name controversy: by a better than two-to-one margin, the membership has voted to keep the names, "Numismatic Bibliomania Society" and "The Asylum". So be it — the people have now spoken!

An honor truly due a fine man . . .



An Introduction to the Fascinating World of Numismatic Literature

George Frederick Kolbe
Crestline, California

The third & final installment, we promise!

Actually, the names of these groups reflect the great zest and enthusiasm of their members. The Numismatic Bibliomania Society and its publication *The Asylum* typify the viewpoint, I think, that specialized numismatic research can be fun. Needless to say, nearly all these specialized groups, which have proliferated not only in the United States but throughout the world, issue their own publications. Routinely, these publications contain important and valuable information not available elsewhere.

Today, hundreds, if not thousands, of significant coin auctions take place each

MEMBER RENEWAL
1988 VOL. VI
Numismatic Bibliomania Society (N. B. S.)

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Armand Champa, incoming president; George Kolbe, outgoing president and new board member; John Bergman, board member; Carling Gresham, board member; Doug Winters, special guest; and yours truly, secretary/treasurer and coffee gulper.

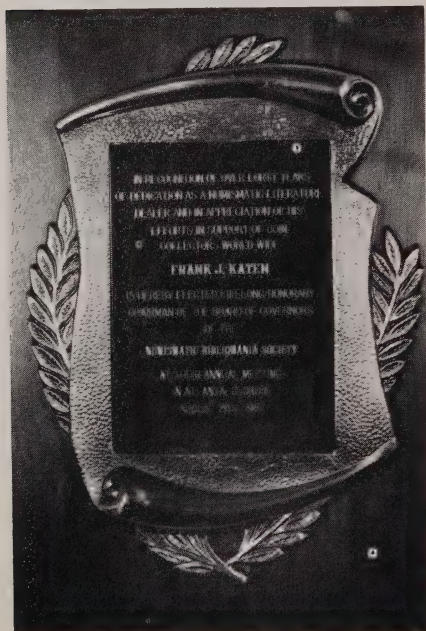
After breakfast, the first topic of discussion was that four-letter word, DUES. *The Asylum* — for the first time in its seven-year existence — has been issued on a regular basis. Because of the ever-rising costs of printing and mailing 32-page issues, the board voted 4-1 to raise the dues to \$15 per year. It was felt that this increase would be large enough to cover all of the expected cost increases, but still small enough that very few members would be forced to drop their memberships because of it.

In abstentia, Jack Collins, co-founder of the Society presented a proposal that the Society form a Code of Ethics and define arbitration procedures which the Society could use. Armand Champa proposed that the matter be referred to an attorney, which John Bergman will oversee, and the matter was tabled. Jack was asked by the board to submit an article to *The Asylum* so that his views could be brought before the general membership.

The issue of name changes was discussed and for the record, the name Numismatic Book Society of America for the organization, and the title *The Numismatic Bookshelf* for the journal were presented at the meeting. The final determination will be made by the membership.

FLASH! FLASH! The votes have been tallied, and there can now be no doubt about the great name controversy: by a better than two-to-one margin, the membership has voted to keep the names, "Numismatic Bibliomania Society" and "The Asylum". So be it — the people have now spoken!

An honor truly due a fine man . . .



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George Frederick Kolbe
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Actually, the names of these groups reflect the great zest and enthusiasm of their members. The Numismatic Bibliomania Society and its publication *The Asylum* typify the viewpoint, I think, that specialized numismatic research can be fun. Needless to say, nearly all these specialized groups, which have proliferated not only in the United States but throughout the world, issue their own publications. Routinely, these publications contain important and valuable information not available elsewhere.

Today, hundreds, if not thousands, of significant coin auctions take place each

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year. The number of specialist publications issued is almost beyond reckoning. New books appear almost daily. Each year the American Numismatic Society adds several thousand new numismatic publications to their holdings. More numismatic research is being published than ever before. It is truly an exciting time to be a numismatist.

I would assume that every one of you reading this has an interest in numismatics. Some of you are coin dealers, some are investors. It is possible, I suppose, that one or two of you may even belong to that near-extinct breed called coin collectors. What does this vast body of numismatic literature mean to you?

Now, if you buy and sell only Morgan silver dollars or if you invest only in mint state examples of them by the numbers, you do not need much of a numismatic library. Nor do you if you are filling holes in a Lincoln penny board.

But what happens when you complete your set of Lincoln cents? When one bag mark too many turns your nest egg into a meager omelette? Do you lose interest, become disenchanted? Perhaps not. Maybe you start collecting a new series, maybe you enroll in the A.N.A.'s coin grading course and buy a bigger magnifying glass.

But are you having fun? Now I would be the last to deny that much pleasure in numismatics is derived from acquisition. Most of us are born collectors and our collecting instinct, perhaps it is a compulsion, is a major reason we are drawn to numismatics. After a while, though, the pleasure of mere acquisition can fade and, under the best of conditions, investors can't be having much fun when the market is not rising. And what about the poor coin dealer, sorting through thousands of silver dollars? After a while, it must be like grading potatoes. Numismatic literature can change all that. It can make coin collecting fun again. It can broaden your horizons.

A customer of mine in California loves historical coins and medals of all periods. When he makes a new acquisition he often comes to me with a long list of desired titles. He searches out all he can concerning the historical event alluded to on the coin or medal he has purchased. He finds out who the engraver was, how and under what circumstances the coin was struck. In short, he learns everything he can about it. I am sure his books far outnumber his coins. But for him, the purchase of a few coins or medals will keep him busy for months. Sometimes he will tell you a lot more than you want to know about a particular coin, but when you see how much he is enjoying himself, you cannot fault him.

Another customer collects ancient Greek coins. He also collects the pertinent literature, also including that pertaining to ancient Roman coins. He has a world-class collection of coins. But his collection of numismatic literature on ancient coins is unapproachable in its scope. He has far more titles than any public or private library or institution and he is constantly adding to his library. I doubt he could decide which he enjoys more, collecting the coins or the books. The two are, for him, inextricably bound together.

The Last Word

The good news revealed elsewhere in this issue — that we finally have put out four separate numbers in a calendar year — *is* wonderful. Conversely, however, it should also make us feel a little ashamed. Since *The Asylum* first appeared in the Summer of 1980, we should by now have emitted 31 separate numbers; instead you are reading the 16th. Pete Smith said a mouthful in his letter published in the Summer, 1987 issue: "I never accepted the explanation that we were getting four issues a year when they

came two at a time. Calling an issue a double issue doesn't impress me." Me either, Pete. Let's hope we have seen the last of them.

The other piece of good news announced elsewhere — that we now have the resources, thanks to a dues increase, to put out four 32-page issues in 1988 — also has a "dark side". Some may feel that a dues increase by itself qualifies as a bitter pill. Ah, but there is more. We have been getting enough manuscripts to keep going as we have in 1987, with two 32-page issues and two 16-page numbers. For 1988, however, we will need to come up with 32 more pages of material to fill our *Asylum*.

Remember, you are paying for 128 pages in 1988. In order to get them, we will need your submissions. So please, make a New Year's resolution to send articles early and often to your editor in 1988.

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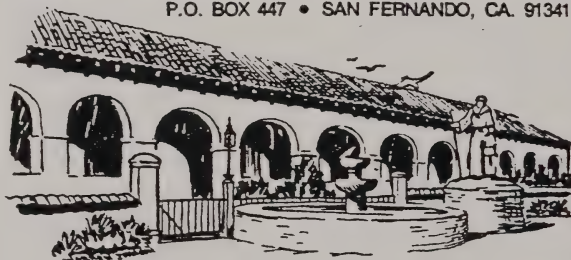
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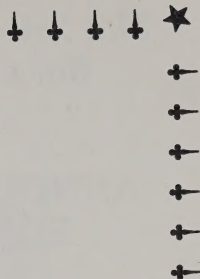
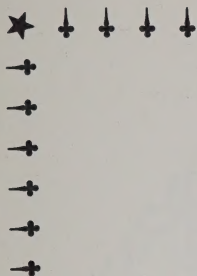


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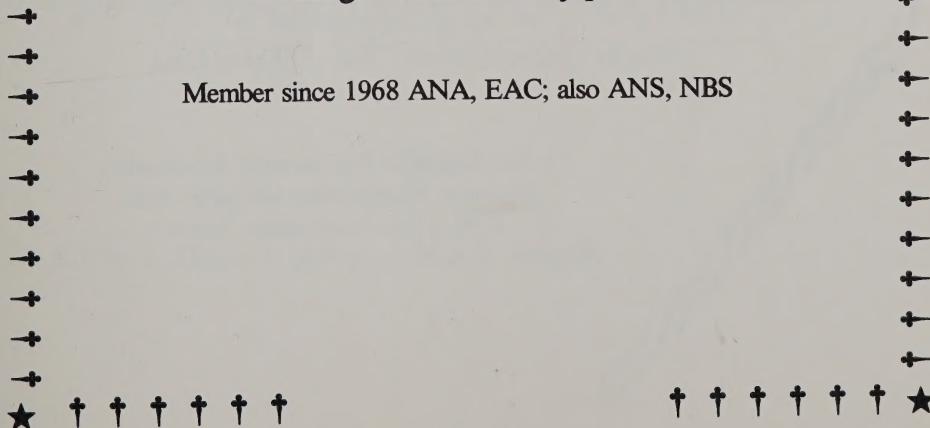
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